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THE TIMES

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FRIDAY AUGUST 2 1996

TODAY THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT EDUCATION VALERIE GROVE TOMORROW

A FINE KETTLE OF FISH
Sardines can give you too much of a good thing
PAGE 5

FRENCH LESSONS FROM ATLANTA
The golden sporting legacy of de Gaulle
PAGE 38

Back to school for the summer holidays, PAGE 15

VALERIE GROVE interviews the man on the side of the unborn child, P13

£30,000 OF VIRGIN FLIGHTS TO BE WON

EU threatens to extend ban on British beef



Gore checks on babies CJD 'risk' to babies of women victims

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WOMEN who develop the human form of "mad cow" disease may pass it on to their children, a leading British expert warned yesterday.

Dr Sheila Gore, of the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit in Cambridge, said monitoring was vital, in the light of new evidence that mad cow disease can be passed from mother to calf.

Dr Gore, who is among those who have been pressing the Ministry of Agriculture to publish results from its experiments — because of the implications its results may have for human disease — yesterday welcomed the decision to do so. The original plan had been to keep the experiment going until 1997, with the scientists "blinded", unaware of which animals came from infected mothers and which did not. Pressure has forced the Ministry to abandon this experiment early.

"We need to know how many children there are born to women who later contract this variant of CJD [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease]," Dr Gore said. "We also need to know dates of birth, so that the children can be flagged with the Registrar-General, and kept track of."

The Health Department said that such monitoring was already being done, as part of the work of the CJD Surveillance Unit.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Mad cows can pass disease to their calves

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's efforts to restore faith in the beef industry suffered a new setback yesterday after it revealed evidence for the first time that "mad cow" disease can be passed from mother to calf.

The demolition of previous claims that the disease could only be passed through food threw its strategy for eradicating Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy into confusion.

Ministers immediately acknowledged that plans for the selective slaughter of 147,000 cows from previously infected herds would be rethought. Thousands more may have to be killed and the new findings are likely to delay any partial lifting of the export ban which, after the Florence summit, John Major predicted could happen within months.

Last night, in a surprise move signalling a potential new confrontation between London and Brussels, Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, told the Government that the European Commission would now have to review its approval of Britain's previously agreed plans for eradicating the disease.

Herr Fischler has written to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, asking for further details of the findings. The EU's Standing Veterinary Committee also said that if Britain's selective cull had to be extended, the progressive lifting of the European ban on exports of British beef would have to be delayed.

Earlier, a hastily arranged announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture suggested that the risk of so-called "maternal transmission" was about 10 per cent in BSE-infected cattle and as low as 1 per cent across the national herd. Throughout the day, government officials emphasised that there was no additional risk to human health.

But Mr Hogg conceded that the existing slaughter scheme might have to be widened to include a limited number of

the "last-borns" from infected cows. This was because government scientists had found during a study of 600 cattle born in 1989 — half of them confirmed BSE cases — that transmission of the disease was more likely to occur in the later stages of the incubation period, in virtually all the cases the mothers died within six months of giving birth.

However, the Government's advisers appeared to differ with Mr Hogg. Professor John Pattison, who chairs the BSE advisory committee, said that all calves of infected cattle might have to be slaughtered. "It is one option that has to be considered," he said. Mr Hogg insisted that it was "logical" to consider killing only the last-born calf of infected cows.

The new findings may help to clear up the mystery of why some 30,000 cattle, born after the suspect feed blamed for causing BSE was banned, went on to contract the disease.

There are no conclusions on precisely how BSE was passed from mothers to calves, whether genetically, through the womb, or at birth. The Government said that while the route of maternal transmission was still a mystery, BSE could not be passed through milk. Calves did not drink the milk produced by their mothers; that was saved for human consumption.

Meanwhile, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, which advises the Government on BSE and its human equivalent, CJD, insisted no new action was needed to protect public health.

In a statement the committee said: "There is no case for changing its recommendations in relation to milk, meat, blood or any other product which is currently permitted."

As the Opposition parties criticised the way officials and not ministers had dropped the new bombshell at a Whitehall briefing, critics of the Government's BSE policy went on the warpath again last night.

Richard Lacey, a microbiologist at Leeds University who issued a warning long before the Government did that BSE could be transmitted to humans, said the findings implied that the disease was passed in the blood.

"If it's in the blood it means that all beef products are dangerous," he said. "This means there should be a total ban on beef products in this country and we should slaughter all infected herds. It is going to be devastating."

In Brussels Keith Meldrum, the Government's chief veterinary officer, told his EU colleagues of the result of the study and said Britain would now consider whether it was necessary to extend the planned selective slaughter of 147,000 cattle.

Around a million cattle aged 30 months and over are also being slaughtered and Brussels could even insist that the 30-month ceiling is lowered. Mr Meldrum faced a barrage of questions at an emergency meeting of the EU's standing veterinary committee.

Mr Hogg said: "We shall need to take stock of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed selective cull of cattle, and what basis of selection stands to produce the most effective acceleration in the decline of BSE."

At that point, to prevent her from leaving the scene, I grabbed her arm and told her she was under arrest. She called me a bitch and kneed me in the groin."

Mrs Pound shouted for help, telling onlookers that she was being "brutalised". Officer Browning "had to fight" to get handcuffs on her.



Julie Pound and her husband, Richard, at their home in Montreal, Canada, where she is a well-known author

Olympic oaths of top official's wife

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

THE wife of a senior Olympic Games official was arrested, seemingly under the influence of alcohol, after she allegedly swore at a policewoman and kneed her in the groin.

Julie Pound, 55, was charged with disorderly conduct, battery, causing an obstruction and ignoring the orders of Officer Leanne Browning. Mrs Pound's husband, Richard, is a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and is regarded as the most powerful man in the organisation after its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The Pounds, who are Canadian, were returning to their hotel early on Wednesday when the incident occurred. They crossed a road, despite being ordered by Officer Browning, who was directing traffic, to stay on the pavement. In her police report, Officer Browning said: "I told

Mrs Pound and her husband to 'stop please and step back on to the kerb'. Instead of complying they proceeded further into the lane of traffic. I asked them three more times to return to the kerb. Instead, both Mrs Pound and her husband began arguing with me and stated that 'this is the biggest waste of time'."

Officer Browning said that when the couple saw a break in the traffic, Mrs Pound swore at her and crossed. When she ordered them to return, Mrs Pound again swore at her and walked on.

The couple live in Montreal where Mrs Pound is a respected fiction writer, writing under the name Julie Keith.

Mrs Pound is due to appear in court on August 26. It is thought that she will be fined and bound over.

Quentin Letts, page 13
Letts, page 17
French lessons, page 38
Reports, pages 35-8, 40

Power utility leads bonanza

A new wave of utility share-holder bonanzas is expected in an attempt to beat the windfall utilities tax planned by a Labour government.

Yorkshire Electricity set the pace when it announced that next year's dividend would soar by 34 per cent as a way of returning value to shareholders after a strong performance.

Page 21

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TV & RADIO 38, 39
WEATHER 20
CROSSWORDS 20, 40

Official solicitor rules human embryos have no rights to avert being destroyed

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Official Solicitor yesterday refused to intervene in the destruction of thousands of human embryos, saying that a child acquires legal rights only if it is born alive.

He spoke as 33 fertility clinics began to destroy more than 3,000 embryos that had been frozen in liquid nitrogen for five years. Peter Harris, whose duty as Official Solicitor is to protect the interests of children, declined a request from Life, the anti-abortion campaigners, to halt the destruction. Mr Harris used the principle of a "life in being" — most commonly applied by inheritance lawyers to divide legacies — to explain his inability to intervene. "My view is that I could not act for a non-legal person and an embryo is not a legal person," he said.

"A child has an independent legal persona when it is born. This doesn't mean to say that things which happen *in utero* don't give rise to cases of

action if the child is born alive. For instance, if a mother has been injured in a road traffic accident and a child has been born suffering from injuries suffered in the womb, a child has successfully sued the person who caused the accident for damages.

"If the mother had miscarried, there would have been no right of action in relation to the foetus. It would be dead. It wouldn't have an estate that would carry on."

"There was a recent case where a mother was knifed by somebody and the foetus was injured. The child was born but died. The person who stabbed the mother was convicted of the murder of the child. There would be no criminal liability in terms of murder in relation to the foetus if the child had been born dead. A child born alive has independent legal rights, not less of which is the right to life."

The Prime Minister failed to

reply before the midnight deadline to the Life's request to extend it for six months.

At Bourn Hall fertility clinic in Cambridgeshire, Peter Brinsden, the director, laid most of the blame for the destruction of the embryos on the parents who had either failed to reply to registered letters or moved without telling the clinic. "If you had £10,000 in the bank, you wouldn't normally ignore it for five years," he said. "These are even more important than £10,000. If couples shirk their responsibilities like that we have no choice but to destroy them."

The centres had lost touch with their parents, and embryos can be kept for longer than five years only with parental permission.

The embryos, consisting of four cells or fewer, were being thawed and placed in water or salt solution at room temperature to perish before being incinerated. Some clinics ex-

Italians convict former SS officer

An Italian military court convicted Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome, but ordered his immediate release because of extenuating circumstances.

Priebke, 83, was accused of mass murder aggravated by premeditation and cruelty in the killings at the Ardeatine Caves on March 24, 1944. The prosecution had sought life imprisonment.

Page 11

Mother is road rage victim

Nicola Archer was attacked by a man with a screwdriver in a road-rage incident near Eastbourne. She escaped with a cut to her arm after winding up her car window.

Mrs Archer, 22, was with her three young children in a queue of stationary traffic when a car driven by a woman with a male passenger came round the corner behind her. The man got out and became very aggressive. Police are appealing for witnesses.

Valerie Grove, page 13

LETTERS 17, 25
OBITUARIES 19
BERNARD LEVIN 16

ARTS 29-31
CHESS & BRIDGE 35
COURT & SOCIAL 18

SPORT 32-38, 40
EDUCATION 15
LAW REPORT 28

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Reassuring statements that fail to win confidence

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

ONCE again the Government has contradicted its own past advice on mad cow disease. Years of reassurances from ministers and scientists that there is no evidence that cows can pass BSE on to calves were overturned yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture's statement that "there may be very low levels of maternal transmission of BSE in cattle".

Commons rose for the long summer recess.

Although the Government received the results of the seven-year study by the epidemiology department at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, in the middle of last month, officials insisted yesterday that it was not in a position to release it at that time. Instead, as usual, the findings were sent to the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) for assessment and its conclusions landed on the desks of ministers early this week.

THE GOVERNMENT

actly designed to raise public confidence in the Government's handling of an issue on which previous soothing words have proved to be worthless. It was driven by the fact that Keith Meldrum, the chief veterinary officer, was due to appear at yesterday's meeting in Brussels at a meeting of European Union vets.

In the past Britain has been berated for keeping them in the dark: it was decided therefore that Mr Meldrum would tell all at this meeting, and that the press would also be told at home. Specialist correspondents were invited along to a ministry talk on experts.

findings had no implications for human health. The public may be forgiven for treating those words with some caution. BSE came to public attention in 1985 at a cattle show near Ashford, Kent, where cows were showing unusual symptoms, identified the following year as BSE. In 1988 scientists said it affected only older cattle fed on scrapie-infected sheep offal, and the ministry said there was no evidence to suggest it could cross the species barrier to affect others. The next year the Government's specialist committee said the disease could not be passed from cow to calf. In 1993 independent scientists began warning of a link between BSE and a disease that affected humans, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). However, the Government continued to deny that it could cross the species barrier, with ministers stating that there was no evidence that BSE could be transmitted to humans.

It was in March this year that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said for the first time that government scientists believed there was a possible link between mad cow disease and CJD in humans. Its claim that beef could be eaten with confidence was met with a worldwide ban imposed by the EU and steeply falling sales in Britain. However, the Government again insisted that the disease could not be transmitted from cows to calves.

Only two weeks ago came another "thunderbolt". There was now a strong possibility that BSE could affect sheep and there was risk inherent in the consumption of the brain, spinal chord or intestines. Yesterday's admission that the disease could pass from generation to generation punched the latest hole in the Government's campaign to allay public concern. Its record so far suggests it may not be the last.

Findings raise possibility that human strain can be passed from infected mothers to their children

Calves discovery hits BSE eradication plan

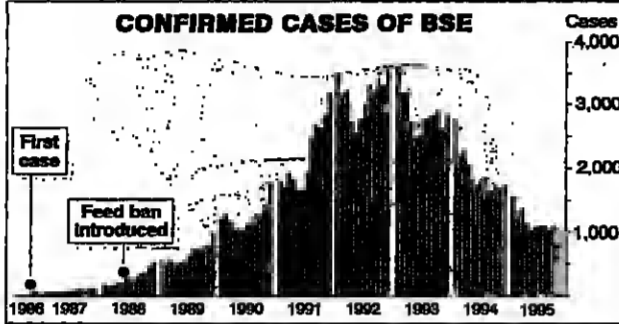
BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE discovery by government scientists that cows can pass on BSE to their calves means that eradicating the disease from British herds is likely to prove more difficult than thought. The seven-year study also raises the possibility that women who have suffered from the human version of BSE, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, may pass it on to their children.

The results suggest that sporadic cases of BSE are likely to occur for many years. However, the Ministry of Agriculture said that the transmission from cow to calf was rare enough to ensure that BSE levels, which are falling at present by 40 per cent a year, should continue to decline rapidly.

The findings stem from an experiment in which 315 calves from cows which developed BSE were compared with a similar number of calves from cows of the same herd which had not shown signs of the disease by the age of six. Conducted by the Central Veterinary Laboratory on a farm in Yorkshire, the experiment involved monitoring the calves as they grew to see whether the offspring of BSE cows were more likely to contract the disease than those whose mothers were free of it.

THE SCIENTISTS



each group had reached the age of seven and had been slaughtered, or had developed disease. Of those with BSE-infected mothers, 42 have been confirmed as having BSE. In the other group, 13 have developed BSE. This means that there is an excess risk in the group with BSE-infected mothers of 29, or roughly 10 per cent of the calves. It follows that about one in ten of the calves born to BSE-infected cows is likely to get the disease from its mother.

The experiment proves that maternal transmission takes place, but does not give a very accurate estimate of how great it is. All the calves in the study were born in the 13 months before their mothers showed clinical evidence of BSE, and the great majority within five months of clinical onset. Putting the best possible

seven or eight years, but sometimes longer. That means that a dairy cow might have six or more calves during her career.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC), in a statement issued yesterday, concedes that the experiment "does not provide a good estimate of the risk to animals born more than six months before the onset of BSE in the dam". Only if the risk of transmission is insignificant before that time is the 1 per cent figure quoted by the ministry appropriate.

Kevin Taylor, Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer, said it was still a mystery how the disease was transmitted from cow to calf. It could not be passed through milk, because the calves of dairy cows do not drink their mother's milk. It was possible infection could occur through the embryo, placenta or uterine discharge.



The study involved calves from cows infected with BSE compared with calves from those that showed no signs

ture Minister, said: "It is important to keep this information in perspective. The Chief Veterinary Officer endorses SEAC's conclusions that there is no case for changing recommendations in relation to milk, meat or any other product which is currently permitted."

But Dr Helen Grant, a retired neuropathologist from Charing Cross Hospital in London, who has been a constant critic of the Government over BSE, said that the ministry should now follow advice to ban calves' brains from human consumption.

"This makes it clear that when the calves are born, they may have infected brains," she said. "They should be excluded from the food chain, as that calves' brains are not in fact used in food products."

The committee considered whether evidence of maternal transmission calls into question the existing recommendations to protect public health. These were drawn up on the assumption that BSE could be a risk to man, still not proven, and on the assumption that maternal transmission could occur. The committee concluded that there was no case for changing its recommendations in relation to milk, meat, blood or any other permitted product.

Latest findings may endanger fragile meat market recovery

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE livestock industry had yet to feel the impact of the Ministry of Agriculture's announcement last night. The auction market average price of beef actually rose from Wednesday's 95.61p per kilo to 96.08p yesterday, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission, which said the news had not prompted panic.

But Colin Maclean, its director general, said: "The important point is that this result poses no threat to human health. All the safeguards which have already been put in place ensure the safety of British beef which can be eaten with confidence. All these findings may mean is that it may take slightly longer to eradicate BSE from cattle totally."

The commission said the sharp downward trend in the number of BSE cases, from 1,000 a week in 1993 to fewer than 200 a week now, would not be affected. Sir David Naish, president of the NFU, said: "The announcement confirms what we have all believed would be the probable outcome of research into maternal transmission, but mercifully at the lowest level."

Dr Gore points out that human births take place in far more controlled conditions than calving, which may reduce the risk of transmission. But it is not clear how maternal transmission in cows occurs. If it is in the womb rather than during birth or after birth, it may be as easy as occur in humans.

"I am not trying to cause alarm but I think it is important that the question of maternal transmission is raised for all species that are subject to these diseases" she said. "For the first time we are seeing cases of CJD in women still in their child-bearing years. We have no idea of the risk of maternal transmission. All I am saying is let us not

THE INDUSTRY

CONSUMER groups in France reacted with shock yesterday to the British statement that farm onions said that safety precautions already in place were sufficient to prevent further public panic in France.

Vincent Perot, scientific director of the Confederation of Living Environment, said: "If the disease can be handed down through the generations, that could massively increase the problem..."

The French Ministry of Agriculture declined to comment but the French Young Farmers' Union said that the possibility of passing on the disease from cow to calf would not affect cattle breeders, given the government's policy of slaughtering entire herds when a single cow was found to be infected.

Consumption of beef in France has dropped by almost a third since March. simply slaughtering cows over a certain age may not be sufficient."

PRECAUTIONS SUFFICIENT, SAY FRENCH FARMERS

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

The French Ministry of Agriculture declined to comment but the French Young Farmers' Union said that the possibility of passing on the disease from cow to calf would not affect cattle breeders, given the government's policy of slaughtering entire herds when a single cow was found to be infected.

Consumption of beef in France has dropped by almost a third since March.

CJD 'risk to babies of women victims'

Continued from page 1

"I must reassure you that there is no evidence to suggest that eating meat causes this sort of illness in people."

Michelle Bowen, 29, of Harpurhey, Manchester, also died last November, weeks after her baby was delivered by Caesarian section while she was in a coma. She had worked in a butcher's shop when she was a teenager. Her symptoms included mood swings.

Margaret Garland, 52, a mother of two, died in June last year. Her husband John, a microbiologist, accused the Government at the time of treating consumers like dirt.

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Nurse drowns on first day of 50th birthday trip

By A Staff Reporter

A NURSE drowned on the first day of a holiday in the South Pacific to celebrate her forthcoming 50th birthday and her sister's 30th wedding anniversary, it emerged yesterday.

Margaret Lynch, from Meppershall, Bedfordshire, who was also a swimming instructor, was overpowered by a freak wave as the fringes of a massive tropical storm swept over the small island of Rarotonga, part of the Cook Islands.

Mrs Lynch, who had gone out in a rowing boat with her brother-in-law while her husband Eddie was recovering from jet-lag, was flung into the sea after the boat capsized. Local fishermen tried in vain to rescue her.

Mrs Lynch, her sister Sheena and brother-in-law Peter Thomasson had decided to go snorkelling in the lagoon between the shore and the coral reefs that ring Rarotonga. They were unaware that the massive waves crashing over the reefs were not normal, but caused by a huge tropical storm that was also causing chaos in Hawaii, 4,000 miles to the north.

Mr Thomasson said: "It looked like paradise, absolutely wonderful. We were far enough from the storm that we could not see the bad weather, only the waves. There was an enormous sea out on the outer reef, which we didn't realise was totally unusual for the island. We had only been there for eight hours and this was the first time we had had a look at the lagoon. The three of us decided to row out to some islands about 200 yards away and do some snorkelling, leaving Eddie to have a lie-in."

"On the way, we stopped to change position so I could row



Margaret Lynch: waves were too strong for her



Rarotonga

more comfortably, and when we sat down again we noticed that we had actually drifted quite a long way. It turned out that, unbeknown to us, there was a horrendous current in the lagoon, dragging us towards this huge great surf on the outer reef.

"I was trying to row like nobody's business, but I just couldn't beat the current. We were being dragged inexorably towards the waves, which looked as big as a house."

A local man spotted the Britons' distress and set out in a small rowing-boat, picking Mrs Thomasson up and returning her to shore. Before he

could get back to rescue the other two, their boat had been capsized.

Mr Thomasson said: "Margaret and I were being ducked underwater by every wave, but we managed to hang on to the boat and I attached a line from it to his boat. The chap was a very strong rower and very brave, but he seemed to be being dragged towards the waves. Then I realised that some fishermen in a boat with an outboard motor had gone out to the other side of the surf. "He had decided that the only way to save us was to go through the waves to them, but we got into even rougher seas and both boats were capsized and all three of us were being knocked about by horrendous waves. Margaret was a swimming instructor in her spare time and a strong swimmer, but the sea was so rough, it was too much even for her."

Mr Thomasson made it through the surf to the waiting fishermen, and the local rower managed to swim to shore.

Mr Thomasson said: "It was terrible having to tell Eddie what had happened. He was distraught. The dreadful thing is that the next day it was completely calm again and there were little boys out in boats there, having no difficulties at all."

The bereaved holidaymakers were visited by Rarotonga's Prime Minister, who paid his condolences. They flew back to England two days after the accident on July 20, but Mrs Lynch's body could not be brought back for some time. An inquest into her death was opened in Bedfordshire yesterday.

A fund has been set up in Mrs Lynch's memory to thank the Rarotongans for their help in trying to save her. It will be donated to the island's health service.



Lady Sarah Chatto leaving hospital with her husband and their son, who arrived on Sunday weighing 7lb 12oz

Royal Family's new member waits for proud parents to name names

By Alan Hamilton

The child 14th in line to the throne emerged from the Portland Hospital in London yesterday, still officially without a name. The boy, born on Sunday, is Princess Margaret's first grandchild.

Asked how she was feeling, Lady Sarah Chatto, with her hair tied in a pony tail and wearing loose green trousers and a mustard smock top, said: "Great."

The child is blessed with having no title and no foreseeable public role in spite of being a great-grandson of King George VI, because his father is a commoner. The former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, 32, younger child of the Queen's sister and the Earl of Snowdon, married Daniel Chatto, 39, in

1994. They live quietly away from public scrutiny in a flat in west London.

The Queen's only niece was said to be in good health after the birth. Lady Sarah's father and Mr Chatto's mother, Ros, were the first to visit mother and baby. Lady Sarah told the Royal Family of her pregnancy during a visit to Windsor Castle last Christmas. The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, who divorced in 1978, were said by Buckingham Palace to be delighted.

The baby will be in the same position as the children of the Princess Royal, Peter and Zara Phillips. Their father, Captain Mark Phillips, was also a commoner so they inherit neither title nor position, irrespective of the fact that

their mother is the Queen's daughter. They, too, have the good fortune to enjoy a relatively private life with no official duties.

Mr Chatto, a former actor, and Lady Sarah, who attended a south London art college, are both artists who travel regularly to the Continent to paint together. Lady Sarah's older brother, Viscount Linley, and his wife Serena Stanhope married in 1993 but do not yet have children.

Baby Chatto's claim to the throne comes in a queue preceded by the Prince of Wales, Prince William, Prince Harry, the Duke of York, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, Peter Phillips, Zara Phillips, Princess Margaret, Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto.

Book on 'killings' is fiction, RUC says

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary said yesterday that a book claiming that an SAS squad assassinated 30 terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s was fiction.

The RUC's judgment on *The Nemesis File*, by Paul Bruce, the pseudonym of a man claiming to have been a member of the death squad, was issued after the author's interrogation at a Belfast police station. He was arrested at his flat in England on Wednesday. The book, published by Blake Publishing last autumn, is to come out in paperback next month.

The RUC said it was satisfied the allegations in the book "are not true in fact or substance and this includes an assertion that the author was at some time a member of the Special Air Service Regiment". The RUC was satisfied that the author had not been concerned, either directly or indirectly, "in the commission of any serious criminal offence whilst serving in the Province". The RUC established that Mr Bruce had served as a vehicle mechanic with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during 1972. The statement said the investigation into the matter was closed.

Yesterday, after Mr Bruce was released, John Blake, the book's publisher, said he remained convinced that the author was telling the truth. Nationalists in Londonderry have removed the Unionist mayor's privileges after his participation in a loyalist protest last month. Richard Dallas, an Ulster Unionist, will hold office in name only.

The move was initiated by the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which controls the city council, after the mayor joined a loyalist blockade in the city during July's stand-off in Drumcree over an Orange parade. It represents a blow to cross-community relations.

Greek tycoon's home raided by armed gang

By Adam Fresco

A BRANDY tycoon has had money and jewellery worth thousands of pounds stolen from his home by an armed gang who handcuffed his mother-in-law to the banister as they searched the house.

Detectives are investigating possible links between the robbery at the home of Spiros Metaxas and other raids across the country in the past 20 months that have netted at least £1 million.

In March, the wife of Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City football manager, was handcuffed to banisters at her home in Birmingham as three men in balaclavas stole her £10,000 engagement ring. All the victims have been tied up or handcuffed and threatened. One brand of handcuffs is believed to have been used in all the raids with the keys left just out of reach.

In the latest attack, on Wednesday night, Stephanie Slater, the mother-in-law of Mr Metaxas, one of the brothers who sold Metaxas, Greece's leading spirits producer, to Grand Met in 1989 for £100 million, was alone watching television in the house at Godalming, Surrey, when the five raiders, wearing balaclavas, ran down the stairs and

shot a Rotweiler guard dog through the chest.

They had used a ladder to get in through a bedroom window. Mrs Slater was forced to open the family safe before being handcuffed. They then searched the rest of the house for valuables.

She freed herself and dialled 999. Police are checking security cameras at the house, which is set in three acres of secluded grounds and regularly patrolled by uniformed guards with dogs.

Last night detectives were trying to contact Mr Metaxas and his wife Kimberley, who are on holiday with their two sons. Mrs Metaxas is a well-known showjumper who competes in dressage events.

In other attacks, Eddie Healey, a millionaire property entrepreneur, was threatened and handcuffed at his house near Hull by a gang that escaped with cash and jewellery worth £250,000. Bill Bell, chairman of Port Vale Football Club, and his wife Jean were tied to a radiator in their home in Staffordshire. In Warwickshire, George Web-

ster was at home with his wife when men burst in and threatened to kill them unless they opened the safe.

Boy hurt by army training explosive

By Kathryn Knight

A BOY aged 14 was badly burnt when a thunderflash left over from a military training exercise exploded in his face. Doctors may have to operate to save Simoo Richardson's sight after he picked up the firecracker as he explored sand dunes on a military beach near Perranporth, Cornwall.

Simon's parents, Colin and Jill Richardson, from Durban, condemned the Defence Ministry for not providing adequate warning signs. The army training range borders on a holidaymakers' area and there are warning signs but no fence. Mr and Mrs Richardson said the peeling signs failed to provide sufficient warning.

Simon is understood to have taken the device back to the holiday camp and opened it, when it exploded. He was taken to the burns unit at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. He has a badly damaged right eye, damaged left eye, badly swollen lips and burns on 10 per cent of his body.

An MoD spokesman said that he was "extremely sorry" about what had happened but signs clearly indicated that people should keep out of the area.

It's a good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll engagement

By Carol Midgley

LIAM GALLAGHER, rebellious singer with the pop group Oasis, confirmed his engagement to actress Patsy Kensit yesterday after a turbulent seven-month relationship that has followed the finest traditions of rock'n'roll love affairs. The couple exchanged rings from an antique shop in Hanzo Garden, London, and will marry when Miss Kensit's divorce from Jim Kerr, singer with the group Simple Minds, is finalised.

Yesterday at Miss Kensit's home in St John's Wood, Gallagher, 23, who proposed a month ago, said he thought the engagement was "great". The news also pleased his mother, Peggy Gallagher, who said from her council home in Burnage, Manchester yesterday: "I'm abso-



Gallagher and Kensit: turbulent courtship

lutely thrilled for both of them. Patsy is such a nice girl. She was really good to me when I was ill. I've known for a few days because Liam phoned up to tell me."

The couple began dating publicly in January soon after Miss Kensit, 28, announced her separation from Kerr, who used to be married to Chrissy Hynde, lead singer with The Pretenders. Weeks

later they were seen kissing at a Dublin fashion show.

During a fiery relationship which has at times been more off than on the couple's every disagreement has been faithfully chronicled by Gallagher and his car after he broadcast the *Breakfast Show* from Lovreness on Monday. He is booked into a 15th-century Scottish castle 30 miles to the south of Inverness for a week, and is already contemplating new Scottish venues for the show.

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Dolphin

Reclusive twins test island's feudal ties

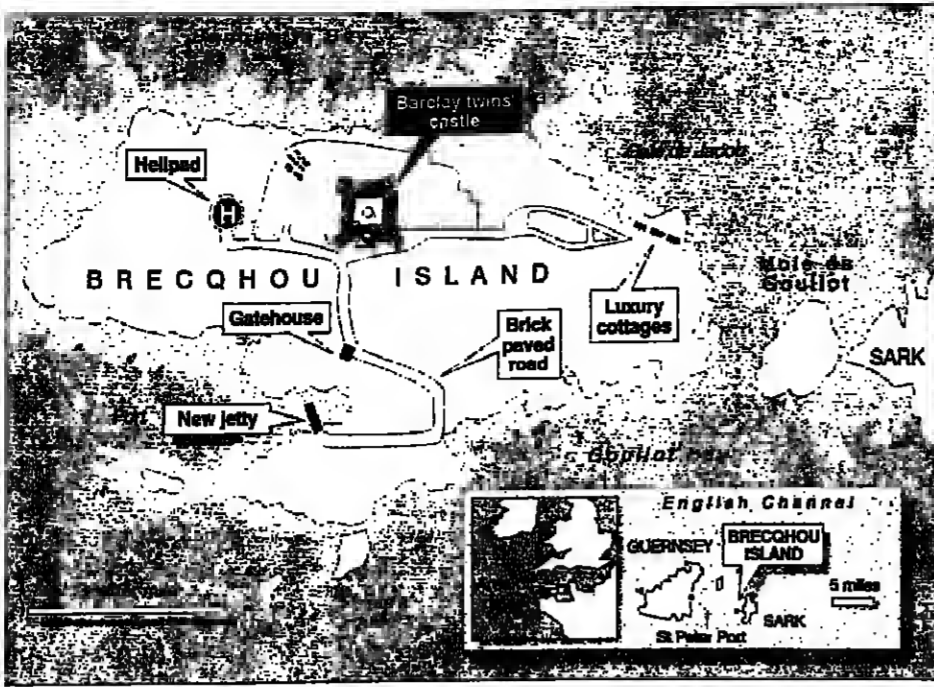
FROM PHILIP JEUNE IN JERSEY

BRITAIN'S wealthiest twins moved to their new home on the tiny Channel Island of Brecqhou this week. They will soon find out if an Englishman's castle really is his home.

David and Frederick Barclay, whose personal fortune is estimated to be at least £650 million, will be spending August with their families in an as yet unfinished Gothic-style castle on the island, the lease to which they acquired for £2.3 million in 1993.

The brothers are passionate about their privacy. Yet their move has been accompanied by a string of legal actions brought on their behalf that have attracted the very publicity they are so keen to avoid.

Since buying the lease of Brecqhou, they have sued Goernsey's local paper, the BBC Director-General John Birt, an *Observer* journalist



and Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of neighbouring Sark.

In their action against Mr Beaumont, the twins are questioning the constitutional relationship between Sark, one of the few remaining feudal states in the world, and Brecqhou.

When they bought the lease, the Barclays had to pay a thirteenth of the price — the "treizieme" — to Mr Beaumont, which amounted to £179,000. In their action they are seeking the return of

these feudal dues; a declaration that Brecqhou is not part of the fief of Sark; the amendment of their title deeds to reflect the true legal position; and clarification of the laws of Brecqhou concerning inheritance rights and alienation.

The action against the *Goernsey Evening Press & Star* was over the paper's publication of drawings of the castle, which the brothers considered to be private documents. The paper filed a defence in 1995, since when

no further action has been taken.

The recent libel action against Mr Birt and the journalist John Sweeney was brought by the Barclays in St Malo, France. It stemmed from an interview with Mr Sweeney, broadcast on BBC Radio Goernsey but heard in France, in which he was alleged to have accused the brothers of corruption. They sought damages of £108,000 but the case was thrown out after the judge said it was "unacceptable".

Drivers face M-way junction closures across the country

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE sudden closure of one of the country's busiest motorway junctions for repairs expected to take a year could be repeated on other main routes because of the scale of cuts in the roads maintenance programme.

The Highways Agency has shut junction two of the M1 in north London for safety reasons with less than four hours' notice. Tests showed that it was unsafe and needed £25 million of strengthening work, the agency said.

The Five Ways Corner junction, which links the M1 with the A1, was closed at 9pm on Wednesday, causing long tailbacks. The agency said tests of the strength of the slip-road showed it was unsafe although there was only a minimal risk of it collapsing. Repair work will not begin until January and is unlikely to be completed before next summer.

Lawrie Haynes, the agency's chief executive, said that

Treasury cuts in his maintenance budget meant "funding will not be sufficient" to avoid a further deterioration of the roads network. Mr Haynes, who has been fighting a Whitehall battle to protect his budget in the present spending round, said in a letter to an MP that the agency "expects to be able to maintain safety" but that many vital repair projects will have to be put off until next year or 1998.

The agency's £1.6 billion maintenance budget was cut by 4 per cent last year and is expected to be reduced again by the Chancellor in his search for public spending cuts.

Hundreds of motorway bridge and road structures built in the 1950s and 1960s need repairing because of unforeseen levels of traffic and because they were built to low specifications.

Pressure on the agency's maintenance budget has been increased by a European Union decision to allow 40-

tonne trucks into Britain from 1999. Mr Haynes said that 1,756 trunk road bridges, including 34 motorway bridges, may need strengthening.

The next big motorway closure is due in February when work begins on testing the M4 Chiswick flyover in west London for "concrete cancer". Motoring organisations have said that the work could lead to ten years of disruption.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is failing in its main duty to encourage motorists to license their vehicles, the Commons Public Accounts Committee says in a report published today.

The agency, which collects £4 billion a year and has seen an 18 per cent increase in the level of evasion since 1989, makes little effort to "go after" tax evaders or to penalise persistent offenders. The report says that shoddy collecting is costing the taxpayer £163 million a year.



Charles Kray: arrested

Kray held after drug seizure

Charles Kray, the elder brother of the Kray twins, was questioned yesterday by detectives investigating a plot to supply cocaine worth £80 million. Kray, 70, was arrested with two other men after a three-month operation in east London. Cocaine worth £60,000 was seized. In a separate initiative against drug trafficking, police made 31 arrests yesterday in raids across south London.

Synod accused

A vote of no confidence in the General Synod of the Church of England has been passed by the Lower Heyford Parochial church council in Oxfordshire, which claims its agenda has been "captured" by special interest groups.

Legion's image

The Royal British Legion is to update its image with a £250,000 campaign highlighting the plight of troops in modern wars and the needs of their families. Posters will focus on conflicts in Bosnia, Rwanda and the Gulf.

Generous Getty

J. Paul Getty has donated £50,000 to the National Galleries of Scotland's appeal to save Il Guercio's *Erminia Finding the Wounded Torcello* from being exported. The appeal has until August 15 to raise £225,624.

School fire

The 19th-century main building of Bedstone College Shropshire, has been badly damaged by fire. The blaze in the listed Calendar building, which has 365 windows and 52 rooms, broke out during redecoration.

CORRECTIONS

The consolidated unfunded governmental pension debt for the European Union is £10.000 billion, not £10 billion as incorrectly printed in Mr Norris McWhirter's letter of July 31.

Mr Robin Whitworth (obituary, July 31) was 85 when he died, not 95 as stated.

Relatives see film of sunken carrier

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

RELATIVES of some of the 42 British seamen and two wives who died in the unsolved loss of the bulk carrier *Derbyshire* have been shown video footage of the wreck on the floor of the Pacific Ocean.

The sequences, taken as part of a government-funded exploration of the wreck site, show clear views of the stern of the 160,000-tonne vessel, the biggest British vessel lost at sea. Five family members were shown the footage at a briefing by three assessors appointed to carry out the £2 million investigation ordered by the Government after an inquiry headed by Lord Donaldson.

A remote control mini-submarine equipped with three cameras spent ten hours around the wreckage of the *Derbyshire*, which sank in a typhoon in 1980 and is broken into bow and stern sections 700 yards apart.

The footage increases hopes that the cause of the loss will be revealed. The video removes one possibility, that the *Derbyshire* had run into problems in high seas after losing its rudder.

Foreign vice may have fatal charm



MEDICAL BRIEFING

IF HIV-1, subtype E, had become established in South-East Asia before the late Lord Moynehan had started his brothels, it is unlikely that he would have died a millionaire. On the same day that the High Court unravelled his matrimonial arrangements, it was reported that some doctors believe that subtype E, which is prevalent in South-East Asia, could be more readily spread by heterosexual intercourse than subtype B, the common European variant.

There seems little evidence that the HIV epidemic among heterosexuals in South-East Asia is a result of any change in the virulence of the virus. Even so, this should discourage anyone who may be planning a visit to the New Dawn of Life massage parlour in the Philippines, a significant contributor to the Moynehan fortune.

HIV types 1 and 2 have long been recognised as unstable viruses: they are subject to both mutation and recombination. As yet no mutation has produced a virulent form of HIV, so the disease has been relatively difficult to catch through heterosexual intercourse and has, seemingly, been spread only rarely by accidental infection.

When the worldwide epidemic started, the instability of the virus caused alarm and considerable public debate in the United States, whereas in Britain little was said publicly. However, Barney Hayhoe told me that while he was Health Minister in the mid 1980s this hazard was regularly dis-

cussed in the department. The prevalence of prostitution is more likely to be responsible for the spread of HIV in South-East Asia than any predilection of subtype E to attack heterosexual people.

It is rapidly becoming as dangerous to have casual sex in South-East Asia as it is in Africa. In both areas there is an acceptance of prostitution which, combined with the lack of clinics for treating sexually transmitted diseases, produces an ideal situation for spreading HIV.

In Britain we have the best clinics in the world and few women are left with chronic ulcers and sores after childbirth, the discharges from which are as good a medium as blood for HIV to flourish in.

In Asia, as in Africa, widespread migration spreads HIV. But the African migration is determined largely by economic necessity, whereas in Asia much of it is related to the holiday trade. Encouragingly, HIV among young men in Thailand is falling as a result of greater use of condoms, better sexual disease clinics and less use of prostitutes.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, monitors HIV subtypes in England and Wales and would notice if there were an increase in one subtype which could be related to a change in the pattern of the epidemiology of the disease.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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السنة الثامنة

Agency accused of treating health foods as medicine

By Robin Young

SARDINES contain so much vitamin B12 that they should be available only on prescription, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Hanssen, author of the best-selling book *E for Additives*, said: "Many other natural products could be reclassified as medicines if the Medicines Control Agency continues as it has since last December. They are so arbitrary they should be called the Medicines Out-of-Control Agency. They are seizing health supplements, vitamins and minerals and ordering them off the market in flat contradiction of stated government guidelines."

The agency, in recent moves that health food manufacturers regard as "aggressive", has banned products containing melatonin, marketed as a relief for jet lag, and questioned the status of *Kira*, a product based on St John's wort claimed to be a mild antidepressant. It also obliged the makers of *Waterfall*, a health product designed to help to maintain water balance through the menstrual cycle, to obtain a medicine licence.

The agency was established as an executive agency of the Department of Health in 1991 and became a commercial enterprise in 1993. Its main purpose is to safeguard public health with regard to medicines, for which it issues licences. Mr Hanssen said it



Vitamin-packed sardines

claimed to be implementing European legislation which declared that anything which prevents, treats or cures disease should be regarded as a medicine.

"An ordinary can of sardines contains 28 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin B12. A health product with so much vitamin would be likely to be banned in many European countries unless it was registered as a medicine. We are in danger of being told here that sardines should only be eaten under medical supervision."

Mr Hanssen added that pork liver contains 60 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A; a litre of orange juice 6 1/2 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin C; a kipper eight times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin D; and brown rice up to nine times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin B1.

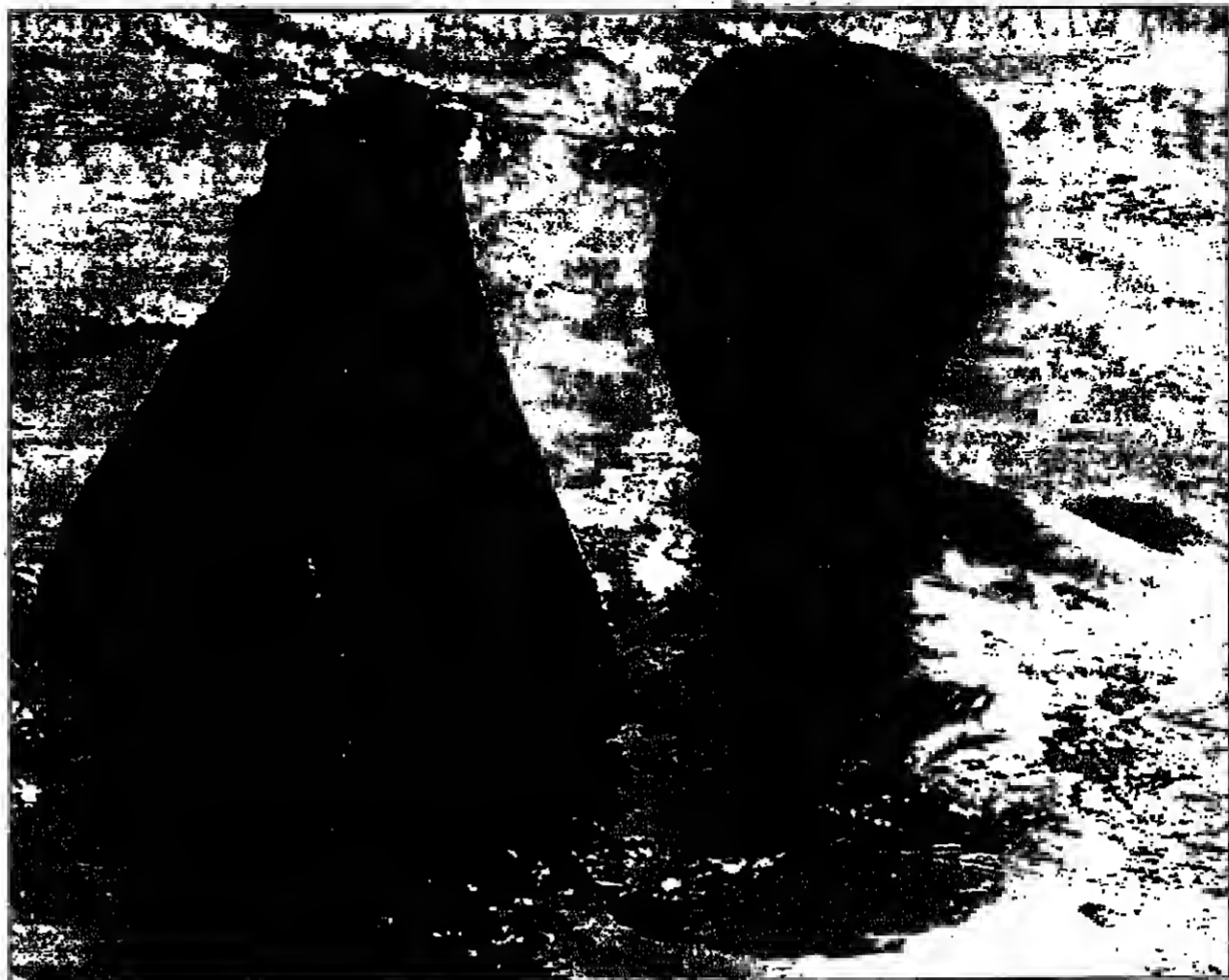
Herbal remedies such as camomile or feverfew could only be sold without the information about the conditions they were good for. "It is a ridiculous denial of information to consumers."

Anthony Bush, chairman of the Health Food Manufacturers Association, said: "The

British Government should be helping this sector promote health. Instead, their agency is treating health products as if they were medicines."

Mr Hanssen added that there was a danger that restrictive practices in some EU member states would mean upper limits being introduced for content of vitamins and minerals here. Greece, for example, had recently banned products containing more than the recommended daily allowance of any vitamin or mineral.

Maxwell Noble of Britannia Health Products added that cosmetics were also affected. He cited the case of a lip salve called *VyrBrit*, based on an extract of melissa (lemon balm) that could help to prevent cold sores. He said the agency initially accepted the salve as a cosmetic, but after the product's launch revoked its decision and said it must be registered as a medicine. "The whole business needs sorting out," he said.



Damon Hill, the British Formula One racing driver, relaxing at the Antibes Marineland aquatic park yesterday before his next race, in the Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest on Sunday

Lamb and Botham consider appeal

By Joanna Bale

THE cricketers Ian Botham and Allan Lamb are "seriously considering" an appeal against their humiliating libel case defeat, their solicitor said yesterday.

"The verdict came as a great shock to them," Alan Herd of Swepstone Walsh in central London said. "They want to spend the weekend getting over it but they are seriously considering an appeal. I expect to know for sure by the beginning of next week."

The appeal must be lodged within 28 days of the verdict, which caused surprise in legal circles when it was delivered at the High Court on Wednesday. Mr Herd said that although it was a serious blow, the two men would "not find it a major problem" paying an estimated £400,000 costs for the 13-day case which lost to the former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan. Because he made another allegation of libel distinct from his joint action with Lamb, Botham must pay two thirds of the bill — about £260,000.

Pet snakes may rival man's best friend

By Russell Jenkins and Diana Thomas

A PET boa constrictor can be good for your health and help you to live longer, according to a new study.

In a domestic setting, animal behaviourists have found that they can have the same soothing effect as a pet dog, slowing the owner's heart rate when he watches or strokes the snake.

Derek Grove, a curator at Dudley Zoo and breeder of rainbow boa constrictors, said that he enjoyed stroking the snakes he keeps in a cage in his bedroom. "I stroke them but don't let them out. They can calm you down and make very good pets."

Mr Grove, 33, who keeps other rainbow boas in cages in a garden shed, said snakes were less messy than a cat or dog and, after the cost of a cage and thermostat, were also cheaper to keep. He sells the offspring for £50 to £200.

"I feed them frozen rodents such as rats or mice, which I thaw out. A rat costs 35p and, depending on the size of the snake, many need to be fed only once a week," he said.

Dogs and cats are known to have a beneficial effect on people with heart problems and are often recommended for patients recuperating from heart surgery. Timothy Eddy, of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, studied the effect of more exotic pets. In one experiment, published for a pet therapy conference at Cambridge University, he measured the cardiac responses of a herpetologist to his 10-year-old boa constrictor.

Heart rate and blood pressure relaxed significantly when he was near the snake. Mr Eddy concluded that a wider range of animals should be considered as pets.



St John's wort

Hedgerow herb 'beats pills for depression'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE herb St John's wort is better than pills for banishing depression, according to German and American doctors. They say the wild relation of gardeners' hypericum is just as effective as drugs and has fewer side effects.

Used for years in Germany as a folk medicine, *Hypericum perforatum* is virtually unknown to doctors in English-speaking countries. The 2ft plant with five-petalled yellow flowers grows in hedgebanks, woods and rough grassland.

In Germany, the seven leading preparations using extracts from St John's wort account for 2.7 million prescriptions a year worth £26 million. Dr Klaus Linde of Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, led colleagues and doctors from the Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, in examining the results of trials of the plant. They report in the *British Medical Journal* that it equalled the effect of standard antidepressants in treating mild to moderately severe depressive illness. The side-effects of the herbal remedy were lower.

But the doctors add that the trials were too small to be statistically certain. They call for further tests comparing St John's wort directly with antidepressants.

In an editorial in the journal, two Dutch doctors say that to be accepted as a treatment for major depression, the herb would have to meet the same rigorous demands laid down for synthetic antidepressants and that the studies cited by Dr Linde and his colleagues do not meet these criteria. But they say that the safety and tolerability of St John's wort argue in its favour and that bigger trials are justified.



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Yes we salute Brussels' safety standards and respect their commitment to the environment. But when it comes to our beer it's no, nein, non.



BREWED IN BREMEN GERMANY SINCE 1874



Derek Grove soothing

vice may al charm

Birmingham will save space by switching hundreds of staff to teleworking and 'hot-desking'

Council to cut costs with stay-at-home technology

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S largest local authority is to ask hundreds of staff to work from home or share desks in a drive to save £50 million a year. Birmingham City Council hopes to make the savings by cutting its 750,000 sq ft of office space by 20 per cent this year and 10 per cent next year. If the experiment works, the council will be able to sell 225,000 sq ft of prime office space.

Each set of equipment will cost about £3,000. Most of those who normally spend a large part of their working time out of the office will be asked to take part in a "hot-desking" scheme, where they can book times in advance to do necessary office work. This will avoid equipment and space standing idle for long periods.

He recommends the change: "You can work at times to suit yourself." Birmingham is the largest employer to use teleworking, although other local authorities, banks, building societies and computer firms have been issuing workers with stay-at-home technology. The council expects that within the next 18 months about 7,000 of its 39,000 staff will no longer be using normal office space. At most a few hundred will be equipped to work from home. The majority will be supplied with high-tech equipment such as electronic notepads with modems.

sonnel director, said: "We are also looking at ways of storing documents by image processing so that we do not need all the space currently used for records. The idea is to free the money locked up in bricks so that it can be used to provide services for the people. The idea of people stuck at home chained to a word processor in the bedroom is quite wrong. We want a highly mobile staff, well-equipped to work out of the office and not stuck at home."

antidote to commuting difficulties. "The average Londoner spends 57 minutes travelling each way to work, the equivalent of nearly 1½ working days in a five-day week," he said. "That is wasted time."

There should be no coercion and there have to be regular staff meetings so they can keep in touch with what is happening. They must not be allowed to think that if they are out of sight they are out of mind.

Epsom with desks, computers and support staff to help employees to send work down the line to county hall. The centre will be available for use by some staff living in the area so they do not have to travel up to an hour to work.

Tourists opt for England's green and pleasant land

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are spurning the heat, sea and sand of the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean, to stay in England. The tourism industry is booming, and last year 53 million British holidaymakers spent £7 billion enjoying themselves in England.

and tourism chiefs are determined to make it easier to book an English holiday. Among the proposals being considered is for local retailers to fund high-technology equipment in tourist information centres and for travel agents to spend more time selling domestic packages to holidaymakers.

HOLIDAY SPENDING table with columns: Destination, trips (m), % rise, spend (£m)



The hotel's tariff card on its opening in 1896, when a seawater bedroom bath cost a shilling and there was no charge for afternoon tea

Hotel celebrates 100 years of family service

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN HOTEL that yesterday celebrated 100 years of service to visitors to East Sussex is thought to be unique in Britain in having been owned and managed by one family.

buy the leases of neighbouring properties. Mrs Barratt died in 1902 leaving the hotel to Sarah, who in 1904 married Douglas Williamson, from Catford, one of the young Londoners who cycled down for holidays to her hotel. It is their grandson, Matthew Williamson, who owns and runs the hotel today.

PRICES 1896-1996 table showing cost per person for dinner, bed and breakfast at the York House Hotel for various years.

was reopened in 1945 by Sarah's son, Alan. A lift was installed in 1962. Matthew Williamson, Alan's son, took over as manager in 1972 after training in Britain and Bermuda.

Lorry kills AA man on hard shoulder

An AA patrolman and a passenger in a stranded car were killed when a lorry crashed into them on a motorway hard shoulder. John Jones, 46, died when the Parcel Line articulated lorry veered off the northbound M40 near Gaydon, Warwickshire, on Wednesday night, hitting his AA van and the car on which he was working.

Bound over

Ray Kennedy, 45, the former Epsom Arsenal and Liverpool football player who has Parkinson's disease, was bound over by magistrates in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, to keep the peace after a disturbance at the home of his former girlfriend, Audrey Broomfield, 34.

Cyanide deaths

An Asian family of five found dead in May were killed by injections of potassium cyanide, Southampton coroner's office said. Tests have shown that Mahendra Karia, 42, his wife Mayuri, 39, and their daughters would have died quickly and painlessly. An inquest will open on Tuesday.

Granny banned

A 76-year-old grandmother who stuck her tongue out at teenagers trying to stop her turning the wrong way down a dual carriageway was banned for a year. Ruby Thomsen, of Boughton Monchelsea, Kent, hit another car but drove on. She denied dangerous driving.

Row brewing

A Welsh brewery has named a beer after the former commander of the Free Wales Army, Julian Cayo Evans. Thomas Watkin and Sons of Llandeilo, Dyfed, said Evans would be a folk hero in years to come. Richard Lewis, a councillor, accused the brewery of honouring a terrorist.

Boiler charges

The landlord of a bedsitter in Durham where Anne Brennan, 19, died from carbon monoxide poisoning from a boiler, is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive. Graham Williams and the engineer who fitted the boiler, Edgar Reed Maddison, face five charges.

Caught out

A cricket club treasurer who conned a travel agent out of almost £18,000 to try to cover up his own dishonesty has been jailed for 18 months by Maidstone Crown Court. Andrew Cooper, 35, of Guston, Kent, stole from club funds that he was holding for a planned tour of Barbados.

P-reg tragedy

A retired doctor was killed when his new P-registered car crashed into a lamppost hours after he had collected it from a garage at Dudley, West Midlands, on the first day of the new registration. The £22,000 Saab 9000CD of Dr John Donaldson, 80, had 23 miles on the clock.

Degree honoured

A woman who was strangled five months before the end of her degree course at Hope University College, Liverpool, has graduated posthumously. Hilda Farrell accepted the degree on behalf of her daughter, Lesley Pilling, 36. A man has been charged with murder.

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Treasure experts bury hope of fortune

TWO treasure hunters and a farmer who believed they were worth a million pounds after finding Celtic and Roman coins and jewellery have been told the haul is worth £103,000.

Peter Beasley and Peter Murphy of Waterlooville, Hampshire, used metal detectors to unearth the haul on farmland near Petersfield in March. They agreed to share proceeds equally with the landowner, John Dalton.

The 256 coins helped historians to identify a Celtic king, Tincomarus, who ruled about 50 BC, and shed light on trade between the Romans and tribes in the south of England. A panel of experts appointed by the Department of National Heritage decided that the hoard's solid gold Roman bracelet was worth £1,650, a gold ring £2,350 and the coins £99,074.

Weather in July lives up to tradition

By DIANA THORP

BRITAIN was occasionally hotter than the Mediterranean, three women were struck by lightning at a Buckingham Palace garden party and Wimbledon was drenched with rain as the country enjoyed "a typical summer's month" in July.

July 1996 was slightly warmer, sunnier and drier than average. But a spokesman from the Meteorological Office said: "It was no record breaker."

The honest day of the year so far was July 22 when it soared to 33C in Jersey, compared to last year's high of 35.2C recorded in Boxworth, Cambridgeshire, on August 1. The average central England temperature was 16.5C, only slightly warmer than the 30-year average of 16.1C and lower than the average last July of 18.6C.

Seahorses to colonise coastline

YOUNG spiny seahorses are being dispatched to 16 sites this week in preparation for an attempt to re-establish them around the coast. The young, 3cm long, were among the first to be bred in captivity in Britain. Seahorses were thought to have died out around the coast, but last summer fishermen off Weymouth found seven in their nets. They bred in June at the resort's Sea Life Centre and some of the offspring are being sent to other centres ready for release next year.

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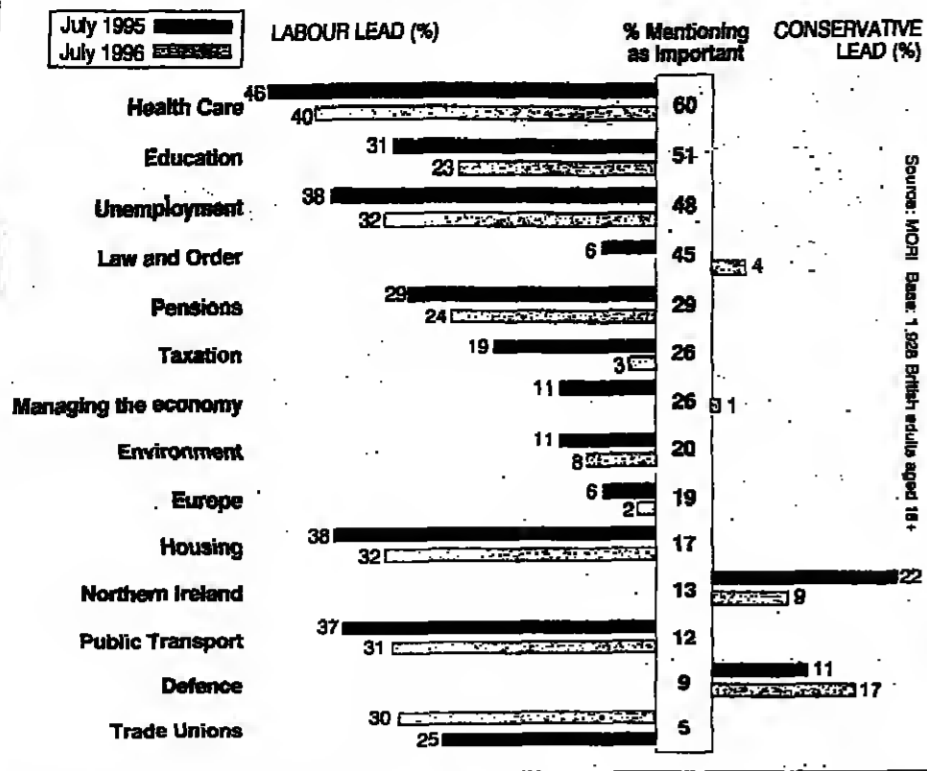
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WHO'S AHEAD ON WHICH ISSUE?

For each one, tell me whether you think the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats or some other party has the best policy.



Labour retains clear lead, MORI poll shows
Tories regain lost ground on crime and the economy

By Peter Riddell

THE Tories have recovered to move ahead of Labour as the party having the best policies on law and order and managing the economy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. Labour, however, still has a clear lead on eight of the top ten issues (and ten of the top 14) that people believe will be very important to them in voting at the general election.

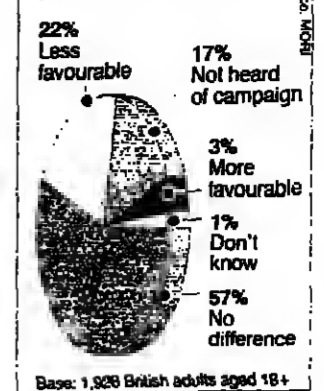
In order of importance, Labour is rated as best on healthcare, education, unemployment, pensions, taxation, the environment, Europe, housing, public transport and trade unions. The Tories now lead on law and order (ranked fourth), managing the economy (sixth), Northern Ireland (eleventh), and defence (thirteenth).

Labour had been ahead on managing the economy since the last general election and ahead on law and order since May 1994, reversing long periods of traditional Tory dominance on these issues. The Tories have improved their position on all 14 of the issues except Northern Ireland where the party has probably suffered from the handling of the Orange Order marches last month.

The biggest improvements for the Tories over the past year have occurred in taxation, managing the economy and law and order. This ties in with the gradual improvement in economic optimism. Tory strategists will be pleased that above-average shifts have occurred on these issues among the very group they are appealing to now — those who have switched away from the party since the 1992 election. Nonetheless, the Tories are still very weak on the main economic issues among this group compared with party loyalists.

"NEW LABOUR, NEW DANGER"

Has this campaign made you more or less favourable towards the Conservative Party?



'Danger' ads fail

THE Tories' "New Labour, New Danger" advertising campaign, with its dramatic black-and-red posters showing sinister eyes looking out from behind a curtain, has so far backfired, according to the MORI poll (Peter Riddell writes). A mere 4 per cent say the campaign has made them less favourable towards Labour, while 11 per cent say it has made them more favourable. The £5 million campaign might have damaged the Tories: 22 per cent say it has made them less favourable towards the party, with a mere 3 per cent claiming it had made them more favourable. The posters have even failed to affect the Tories' main target group of switch voters: 22 per cent of new supporters of Labour say it has made them more favourable to Labour.

Hostility to Major abates, but it may be too late to save his party

THE Tories are beginning to claw back some ground in the opinion polls, but their recovery is still slow and patchy. The positive news for the party is that, leaving aside monthly fluctuations, its underlying rating is improving slowly. Optimism about the economy is rising and the public are becoming less hostile to the Government and to John Major personally over their performance in office.

who think it will get worse, now stands at minus nine points. The average index for April to July is half the deficit of the previous four months. Moreover, the Tories have made some headway in winning back support on key issues such as the economy, taxation, and law and order; particularly among those who have deserted the party since 1992. If consumer confidence and spending continue to grow, there could be further benefits for the Tories. Mr Major himself also retains a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

personal appeal, among some Liberal Democrats and new Labour supporters. Nonetheless, Labour remains in a commanding position — in sustaining its overall lead and on most of the key issues that worry voters, such as healthcare, education and unemployment. The Tory recovery, such as it is, is smaller and later than Labour strategists feared. And there is evidence that new Labour support-

ers are affirming their commitment to the party. There are a few reasons for Labour to reflect. The party has not fully got rid of its "tax and spend" image, nor really convinced people about how it could make a positive difference in office, despite the launch of its mini-manifesto. Mr Blair remains the party's main asset, so Labour strategists are puzzling over the sharp fall last month in his personal approval

rating (those satisfied minus those dissatisfied with his performance) to the lowest level of his two-year leadership. This may be explained in part by the publicity over the Shadow Cabinet elections and the "demon" of Clare Short. Mr Blair's advisers believe that assertions of strong leadership by him have helped the party, but on this occasion that may have been offset by the impression of divisions. It could be a temporary decline, but the other parties believe that Labour is vulnerable to charges of being arrogant and taking voters for

granted. It is striking that the decline in Mr Blair's personal rating was far larger among supporters of Labour since 1992 (from plus 61 to plus 41 points) than among long-term Labour loyalists (from plus 59 to plus 47). These shifts are small compared with the seismic change in attitudes triggered by Black Wednesday, the battles over the Maastricht treaty and the tax rises of the first half of the Parliament. The Tories now have an unprecedented 53 point gap to close, before those troubles the gap was 29 points.

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Home Office hits back at claim by firearms lobby

By Richard Ford and Alice Thomson

THE Home Office last night rejected the gun lobby's attempt to undermine the argument linking the availability of firearms to violent crime. Officials published a strong defence of the Home Office's evidence to Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre, emphasising strong links between the ownership of guns and gun-related homicide. The paper was released after the gun lobby had told the inquiry that the government figures were unreliable.

Police chief fines careless marksmen

FIVE police firearms experts whose Smith and Wesson revolvers fell out of a van were each fined £400 by their chief constable yesterday. They were returning to Nottinghamshire police headquarters after a shooting practice last August when a holdall containing the guns tumbled through a side door left open to keep the officers cool. They were picked up by two men in a following car who sold them to a convicted drug dealer. He planned to sell them to criminal contacts but lost his nerve and dumped them in a ditch. Four men were later jailed for plotting to sell the guns.

to Lord Cullen's inquiry, the Home Office emphasises the links between gun ownership and the incidence of violent crime. It had been asked to produce the document after the gun lobby claimed it had submitted evidence which "destroyed" research findings linking gun ownership with high levels of gun homicide. The Home Office document also said that it was significant "that no serious challenge was made of the similar correlation between gun ownership and gun-related suicides, or of the fact that extremely marked differences in gun-related crime in the US compared to England and Wales are not echoed in offences in which guns are not involved".

The Home Office emphasised that the document did not constitute government policy, and did not prejudice the response the Government would eventually make to the Cullen report. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has indicated that he will bring forward a Bill for new gun controls should Lord Cullen make proposals in his report that require legislation. Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, said yesterday that Labour MPs would vote with the Government if John Major faced down his backbenchers and legislated to ban handguns. Mr Dewar said that the Prime Minister should not wait until Lord Cullen's report is published this autumn but end the confusion over where the Government stood.

Britain launches fast-reaction force

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A RAPID deployment force to react to a range of crises worldwide was officially launched yesterday. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said that some of the joint Services' force of up to 10,000 troops would be on 24-hour notice and others on five-days' alert. The core of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force is provided by units of 3 Commando Brigade and 5 Airborne Brigade, with other elements of the Army, RAF and Royal Navy assigned to provide additional combat power, including an aircraft carrier, Tornado squadrons and submarines. This is the first time that the Ministry of Defence has formed a triservice rapidly deployable force, backed up by

a permanent staff. They are preparing for such emergencies as evacuating British citizens from foreign conflicts or acting as the bridgehead in war zones for follow-on troops and armour. Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, a former commander of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service, has been appointed the force's first chief. He operates from a new permanent joint headquarters at Northwood that cost £7 million to set up and will cost £16 million a year to run. Although the force of up to 10,000 troops will not be equipped with tanks or heavy artillery, Mr Portillo said that the intention was to provide the framework for a larger and heavier force if required.

Iraq
 New Labour
 Danger
 Home Office
 Firearms lobby
 Police chief
 Careless marksmen
 Britain launches
 Fast-reaction force
 Tear away

الرياض 25 أغسطس 1996

Iraq loses flag-bearer as weightlifter defects

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

IRAQ'S flag-bearer at the Atlanta Olympics, after dramatically defecting, yesterday described his homeland as a "concentration camp" and accused General Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of President Saddam Hussein, of atrocities.

Raed Ahmed, a member of Iraq's weightlifting squad, eluded his team manager and colleagues at the Olympic village. After breakfast on Wednesday, he left the dining room on the pretext of needing to check something on a computer. Instead, he ran to his room, stuffed some belongings in a bag and fled the athletes' village.

Yesterday, accompanied by a lawyer and an interpreter, he was interviewed by immigration officials after requesting asylum. He will be given an answer in a few days.

Mr Ahmed, 29, has a wife in Basra, the southern Iraq city. He was confident that she was safe after her removal to an undisclosed address by opponents of Saddam. However,



other members of his family are still in Basra, and he said that he was "frightened" about their future.

"I love my country," said Mr Ahmed at a news conference. He said he was still proud that he had carried the Iraqi flag at the opening ceremony of the Games. "I just don't like the regime," he said.

Looking composed, he said his defection was a statement against the oppression of Saddam. Before coming to Atlanta with the five-strong

Iraqi delegation he was ordered not to discuss his country's politics with journalists or to mention the name of Saddam. He said he had trained for the Olympics to have the opportunity to defect "but also to win medals".

He added: "When carrying my country's flag I was thinking that I would like to see the flag represent my people, not Saddam Hussein and his war against the United States. The situation in Iraq now is terrible. There is a lack of food and drinking water."

He claimed that during the Gulf War he saw Iraqi officials planting explosives in towns in order to falsify US bombing of civilian targets.

He claimed also to have seen General al-Majid, the Governor of Kuwait during the Iraq occupation, killing people after an unsuccessful assassination attempt. In March 1991, he said, "I witnessed al-Majid putting people up against a wall and executing them. I imagine that if he hears I have said this he will hurt my family."

Mr Ahmed said that President Clinton helped to inspire

his decision to defect. At the opening ceremony of the Games, he said, "we were told by Iraqi officials to turn our heads away from Mr Clinton. We were told that he wanted to destroy Iraq. Everybody else in our group looked away from President Clinton. They were not men. But I turned my head and looked at him and I could not believe my eyes. He was standing and applauding for us. I know that, if the Games were in Iraq, Saddam would not clap for the US."

Mr Ahmed's defection was co-ordinated by the London-based Iraqi National Congress, a dissident group which hopes to overthrow Saddam. Mr Ahmed said that he had been thinking about defecting for some time. He had received "bad medical care" in Iraq for his sporting injuries and was struck by the amiability of Western weightlifters and coaches at the Games.

He is the first non-Cuban athlete to defect at the Atlanta Games.

Features, page 13
Letters, page 17
Sports, pages 35-8, 40

Taipei farmer presses claim to Games song

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAIPEI

A TAIWANESE tribesman was delighted to learn that his singing was used to promote the Olympics. Now he just wants to get paid for it. Kuo Ying-ana, 76, said his wife, Hsin-Chia, sang the soaring harmonies in Enigma's *Return to Innocence*, which was used in advertising the Atlanta Games. Mr Kuo, who said he had not been paid for the song, said: "We saw the advertisement on television and were really happy, but then I was sad when I realised I hadn't got any credit and nobody knew that it was a Taiwanese person singing."

Mr Kuo, a farmer, said he only learnt of Enigma's song when a friend heard it on the radio and recognised his voice. With the help of a record company that is producing some of their songs, the Kuos are pressing the parties involved to prove that they obtained the couple's permission to use the song — which they say they never gave — or pay damages.

The Kuos, who are members of the Amis tribe and speak only Amis dialect, were recorded in 1988 singing a tribal hymn, *Baleba*, during a tour of Europe. France's *Maison des Cultures du Monde*, which co-sponsored the tour, sold the rights to Michael Creba, a Romanian-German producer who records as Enigma.

Atlanta: Two table tennis spectators were arrested for fighting after police tried to remove one of them for waving a banned Taiwan flag. Flags, other than those of competing countries, are prohibited from the stands and, to placate China, Taiwan participates under a special banner. (AP)



Raed Ahmed carrying the Iraqi flag into the Olympic stadium

Detectives search rural cabin of Atlanta suspect

FROM REUTER IN ATLANTA

INVESTIGATORS yesterday sifted through material seized from the flat and rural cabin of an Olympic security guard, but the FBI said no charges were imminent over the Centennial Park bombing.

Louis Freeh, the FBI director, told a congressional hearing in Washington: "Nobody is about to be charged with a crime." He added that investigators had "a number of good leads and a number of suspects they are looking at". An FBI spokesman in Atlanta said that Richard Jewell, the security guard earlier hailed as a hero in Saturday's blast, was still considered a suspect.

Mr Freeh said the FBI had found no evidence of an international terrorist or "sophisticated" group threatening the Olympics. This confirmed speculation that the crude pipe bomb attack could have been carried out by an individual or a domestic extremist militia organisation.

Federal agents and forensic teams scoured Jewell's Atlanta flat all day on Wednesday. They also searched a cabin in northeast Georgia where Mr Jewell lived until last May.

Mr Jewell remained inside his flat yesterday with a large number of journalists and cameramen and a police squad car outside. Police said the journalists would be moved away because of complaints from residents.

Watson Bryant, Mr Jewell's

lawyer, strongly criticised the conduct of the FBI investigation. "It is unforgivable... it shouldn't be done under these circumstances... what we do object to is some skunk in the Government leaking it to the media," Mr Bryant said.

He said Mr Jewell was going through hell and added: "He is holding up as well as can be expected."

Federal agents took several boxes of material away from the flat that Mr Jewell shares with his mother in a working-class suburb. They also inspected the area with a bomb sniffing dog and for a while evacuated local residents. A spokeswoman said the material was being examined yesterday with some sent to an FBI laboratory in Washington.

Mr Jewell, who says he is innocent, was widely interviewed by television stations and newspapers after the blast in which two people died and 110 were injured. He alerted police to a knapsack containing the bomb but it exploded, spraying nails and screws, while they were trying to evacuate the packed rock-concert crowd.

Albany, Georgia: Police said that Walton Burdon, who was on parole, has been charged with breaking into the house of Alice Hawthorne, who was killed by the Olympic bomb, when her husband was making funeral arrangements. (Reuters)

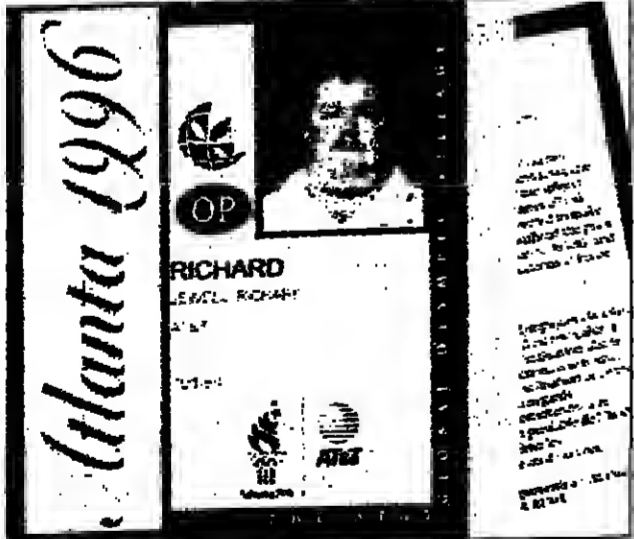
Train official sends a London cab to Dundee

By Charles Johnson

A LONDON cab driver was ordered to take a train official to Dundee in Scotland after the official was arrested in London.



The driver, who was ordered to take the official to Dundee, was arrested in London. The official was arrested in London and is now in custody.



Suspect Richard Jewell's security guard credentials

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UNITED AIRLINES



Sweeping benefit reforms bring fears of hardship for America's neediest and youngest citizens

Redwood cheers as US rolls back 60 years of welfare

FROM TOM RHODES AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

JOHN REDWOOD last night endorsed an American welfare reform Bill that reverses the New Deal philosophy of Franklin Roosevelt and eliminates more than six decades of guaranteed federal government assistance to millions in the United States.

question that the American model will resonate in Britain, just as Roosevelt's New Deal became an inspiration for the British welfare state.

It is now more than 60 years since Roosevelt rescued America from its era of deepest gloom, whose haunting images of dole queues and soup kitchens were forever captured in *Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?* — the song which became a symbol of the Depression.

average citizen", that poor children and their families would be entitled to benefits, grew into a welfare debate that now embraces 12 million people, massive fraud and a catalogue of malfeasance.

In a fundamental shift in philosophy, the American welfare gravy train was brought to an effective terminus this week with the new Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act that President Clinton has agreed to sign.



Henry Fonda in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Steinbeck's story of life and hard times in the Depression. Roosevelt's New Deal rescued America from that era, and later inspired the British welfare system

The buck stops at California county

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE prospect of federal welfare reform has been greeted with dismay in America's most populous county, amid warnings of municipal bankruptcy.

Less than a year after its worst financial crisis, Los Angeles County now faces the task of providing a financial safety net for one in five of America's legal immigrants.

"It's devastating to the county," Gloria Molina, a supervisor and staunch ally of President Clinton, said of the welfare Bill which could deprive 400,000 constituents of federal aid.

An estimated 93,000 immigrants in Los Angeles County will lose federal income support worth \$236 million (£152 million) a year, officials say. The new Bill will also leave state bodies to decide whether about 200,000 legal immigrant families — many of them Russians and Eastern Europeans with scant grasp of English or capitalism — are entitled to food stamps, child support and healthcare.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

- Ends guarantee of federal cash assistance for poor children. States will receive block grants to run their own welfare programmes.

"welfare queens" were arriving to collect benefit cheques in limousines and fur coats. These characters were never actually seen.

50 states, many of which have already tested parts of the programme. Wisconsin is now saving \$12 million a month and has reduced its welfare case-load by 40 per cent through workfare.

It will affect such backward states as Mississippi where Third World conditions of poverty exist. The *New York Times*, in an editorial, described it as a "sad day for poor children" and predicted that the effect on cities with large immigrant populations would be devastating.

California as a whole will forgo \$10 billion it had been expecting from the federal Government over the next six years. Half of that had been earmarked for Los Angeles County, officials say.

Township protesters set fire to train

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A TRAIN was set alight yesterday in Tembisa, 20 miles northeast of Johannesburg, as township residents vowed to continue their protest after the deaths of 15 people in a station stampede.

The guards have been accused of provoking a stampede by firing shots and using electric batons on commuters. Metro Rail yesterday withdrew its security personnel for fear of aggravating the situation after youths had threatened to lynch the men.

on commuters by pressing batons on bare flesh, including faces. At least one of those critically injured suffered shock burns and heart problems as a result of the batons' use.

Amnesty said the Government was wrong not to classify the devices as weapons and called for regulation in the export of electric shock devices.

WORLD SUMMARY

Crash jet baggage blamed

New York Thirteen more bodies were found yesterday in a 50ft length of fuselage off Long Island as investigators continued to seek the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800 (James Bone writes).

Workings of Israel's secret service exposed

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE operational structure of Mossad, Israel's secret intelligence service, which has always prided itself on weaving a cloak of impenetrable secrecy around its covert operations, has been disclosed by a British specialist journal.

and Algeria. Branch C is reported to cover the Mossad stations in London, Paris and Marseilles.

earlier this year after nearly seven years as Mossad's head. Other Mossad branches are listed as the Political Action and Liaison Department which deals with friendly foreign intelligence services, including the American CIA and Britain's MI6, and a special section called LAP (Lohamah Psychologi) which covers psychological warfare.

Death protest in West Bank

Nablus, West Bank: Palestinians burnt tyres, threw stones and wrecked a petrol station yesterday in protest against the death of a detainee, severely beaten and burned by Palestinian interrogators.

Tamil Tigers to be banned

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Government will ban the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam this week, a Defence Ministry source said (Nijitha Yapa writes).

Tudjman faces pressure in US

President Tudjman of Croatia is expected to come under fierce pressure, when he meets President Clinton in Washington today, to do more to influence hardline Croats in Bosnia who are undermining the Dayton peace process (Eve-Ann Prentice writes).

Fugitive US financier goes on trial in Cuba

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ON THE run for 25 years, one of America's most notorious fugitives went on trial yesterday — in Cuba. After one apparent scam too many, Robert Vesco was arrested last year in Havana and faces 20 years in jail for "illicit economic activity".

refuge on medical grounds. Mr Vesco is alleged to have engaged in several subsequent criminal escapades, amassing further US charges, including drug running and smuggling in breach of the US trade embargo against Cuba.

US defence pact with Mongolia

Washington: Mongolia has signed a defence co-operation agreement with America as part of its bid to expand ties with the West and Japan (Ian Brodie writes).

Maid given big Manila welcome

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

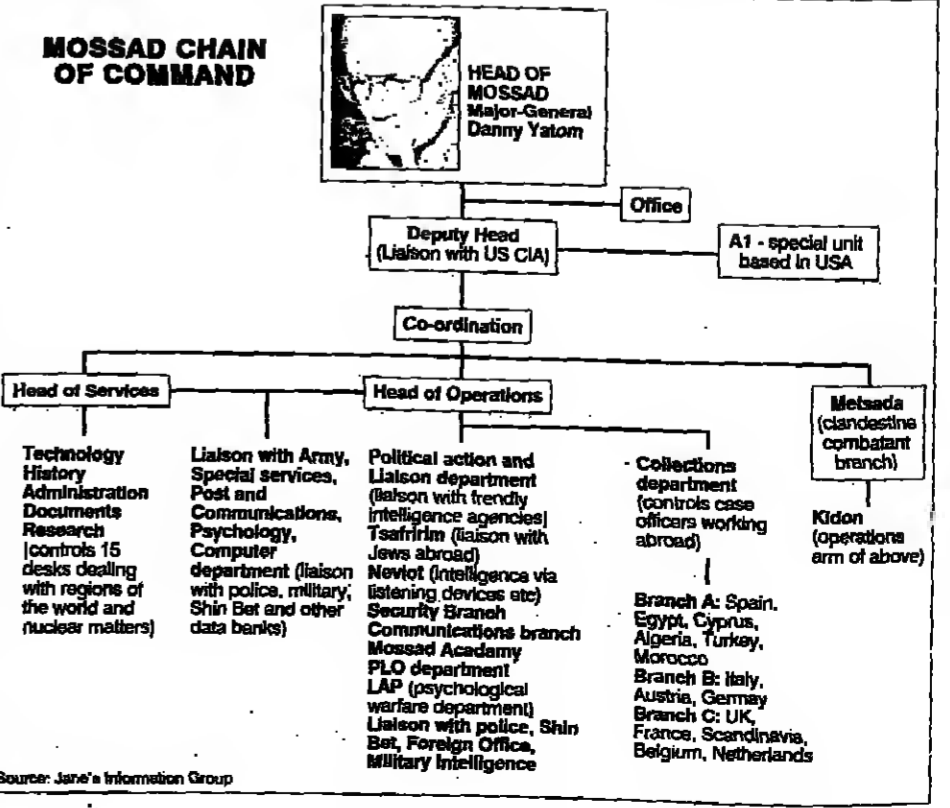
SARAH BALABANGAN, a teenage Filipino maid spared from a death sentence in the United Arab Emirates, returned home as a celebrity yesterday.



Balabangan at a press conference yesterday

Illustrations of a Diadema antillarum (Long-Spined Urchin), a Muggus thugeri (Common Hoodlum), and a Latrodectus mactans (Black Widow Spider).

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Italian Priebe Rome

Will Yet

Wach... Off...

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Italian court frees Priebke over SS Rome massacre

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ITALIAN military court yesterday convicted Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome, but ordered his immediate release because of extenuating circumstances.

Priebke, 83, was accused of mass murder aggravated by premeditation and cruelty in the killings on March 24, 1944. The prosecution had sought life imprisonment. Among those shot at the Ardeatine Caves on the outskirts of Rome were 75 Jews and a 14-year-old boy.

In a two-to-one ruling, the three-judge panel recognised Priebke's responsibility in the massacre but accepted the defence argument that, because he was acting under orders, he could not have disobeyed without risking being executed.

His present age, good behaviour in prison and "minimal role" in the crime were also taken into account, judicial sources said. Under Italian law, the crime was covered by a statute of limitation, meaning that he had to be released. Priebke, dressed in a



Priebke: acting under orders, said defence

among relatives of the victims and concentration camp survivors gathered in a room adjoining the courtroom, who chanted "Fascists, Fascists", and "Shame, shame".

Priebke now faces an appeal by the victims' lawyers, and in Germany a magistrate for the Dortmund prosecutor's office said that Bonn would seek his extradition to try him for the massacre again.

Earlier, victims' relatives had shouted "Assassin, executioner, you must die", when the court retired to consider its verdict.

Tullia Zevi, the head of the Italian Jewish community, had urged the court to convict Priebke but said he should be placed under house arrest "as a humanitarian gesture" that would bolster Italy's image abroad.

During the three-month trial, the defence argued that the massacre was a legitimate reprisal for the killing a day earlier of 33 German soldiers in Rome's Via Rasella by Italian Resistance fighters, and that Priebke had acted under orders he could not disobey. The killing of ten Italians for every German was ordered by SS Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Kappler, but five additional people were shot in the caves.

"You have to put yourself in the Nazi frame of mind in which that reprisal was legitimate," Signor Di Rezzo had argued.

The prosecution contended that Priebke could have disobeyed orders as some others had, without repercussion. "This was a vendetta, a blood feud typical of the Nazi regime with its mythology of blood, race and nation," said Judge Antonino Intelliano in his closing speech. "There was no military code in this action: everything was done in a hurry, in secret, and had to be hidden."

Priebke admitted shooting two people and marking off the names of others as they were led to be killed. The Nazis later blew up the caves to try to hide the deed.

Much of the prosecution case rested on evidence by SS Major Karl Hass, who testified that when Priebke discovered that five extra people were on the death list he, with the complicity of Kappler, killed them, to leave no civilian witness to the carnage.

Priebke was arrested in Argentina in May last year and extradited to Italy in November after an American television interview in which he admitted his role in the massacre. He had lived for decades in an Andean resort town, running a delicatessen.

Germany tried to silence me, says Holocaust author

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

THE American historian Daniel Goldhagen, whose book on the Holocaust has angered Germans, yesterday replied to his critics, saying they wanted to silence him because he had broken a long-standing taboo.

Dr Goldhagen, whose book *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, appears in German next week, said his arguments had been deliberately distorted in an attempt to dissuade the German public from reading it.

The book has caused an uproar in Germany, where critics have claimed that during the Hitler era the country was neither more nor less anti-Semitic than most other European countries. Dr Goldhagen maintains that ordinary Germans were not only anti-Semitic but participated willingly in killing Jews.

Given six pages by *Die Zeit*, the influential weekly, to put his case, Dr Goldhagen wrote yesterday: "This chorus of critics... treats my book as a pernicious tract that belongs on an index of banned books.

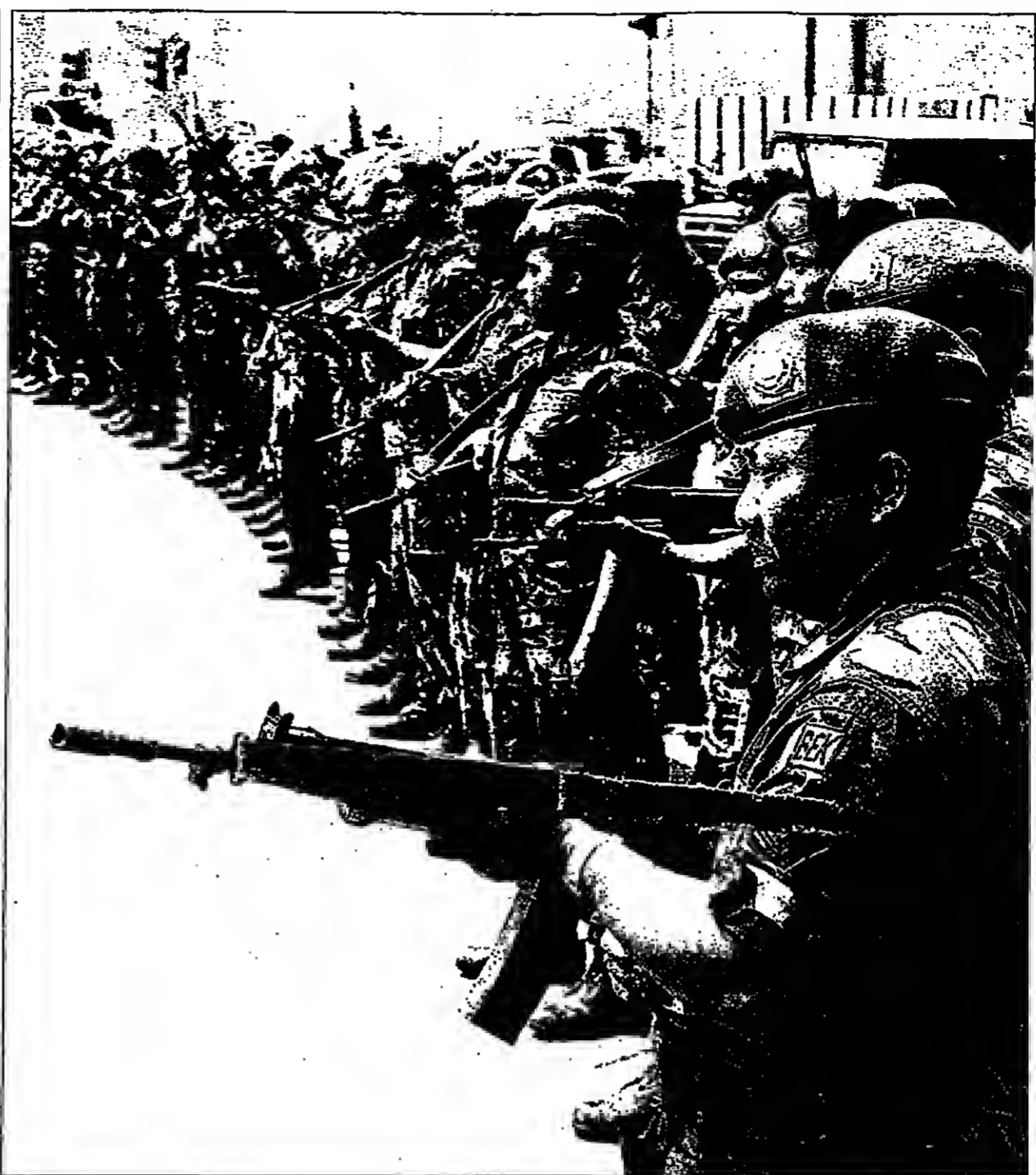
They react with a fury that recalls people who want to shut someone up because he dares to touch on a long-standing taboo."

Among the 16 critics he named are Rudolf Augstein, publisher of *Der Spiegel*, Frank Schirrmacher, publisher of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Hans Mommsen, a leading German historian, and Jörg von Uthmann, a former German diplomat in Israel, who is now a writer.

Die Zeit commented: "The vehemence of the reaction matches the stridency of the provocation."

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, also recently became embroiled in the controversy. He said guilt was neither collective nor inherited. However, he said he would wait until the German edition was published before commenting further.

Dr Goldhagen, whose father was a Holocaust survivor, said that he would take part in several public debates with leading German historians next month.



Marines face pro-Megawati demonstrators who gathered near the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday

'Political toothache' halts case in Jakarta

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

A JUDGE'S apparent toothache saved the Indonesian Government yesterday from having to defend itself in court against allegations that it conspired to remove the country's main opposition leader as head of her party.

Riot police and troops scattered hundreds of supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri outside the Central Jakarta District Court, where she was taking the extraordinary step of suing a government that controls almost all aspects of political life and holds sway over some aspects of the judiciary.

Three judges were to have heard the case: one of them did not turn up, however, claiming to be in pain with his tooth. Opposition leaders called it a political toothache. A few days earlier, the judge had been well enough to hear a triple murder case. The case was adjourned until August 22.

Miss Megawati was voted out of the leadership of her Indonesian Democratic Party, which she has led since 1993, after a pro-government faction opposed her. Few people doubt there was official involvement in the outcome. Her party is one of only three that are officially recognised.

The interference has backfired: Miss Megawati is now the undisputed leader of the campaign for democracy, having been seen to force the Government into securing her removal as an official party leader. She remains a member of parliament and said yesterday: "I will carry on doing what is right."

Woman strikes fear in Indonesia's rulers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

SMALL, plump, softly spoken and diffident — Megawati Sukarnoputri seems an unlikely challenger to Indonesia's strictly ordered political system. But she has rattled the Government as nobody else, with an intensifying campaign to replace President Suharto, which could mean more violence and an end to 30 years of stability and security.

Miss Megawati, 49, married three times and mother of two sons and a daughter, remembers living in the presidential palace as a child. What she does not remember, she said yesterday in an interview with *The Times*, is the massive bloodshed before her father, President Sukarno, was ousted. "When my father was thrown out of the presidency, many died. I was only a young girl and I did not know about this until later."

She lives with her husband, Taufiq Kiemas, a member of



Megawati: backed by the educated young

the House of Representatives, in a large white house in the southern suburbs of Jakarta. Since the rioting outside the headquarters of her Indonesian Democratic Party last weekend, she has not left home. "My people will not let me go out. They say it is not safe for me. The situation is not stable."

As the daughter of the country's charismatic founding President, she is a natural symbol for change. She appeals mostly to the educated young who are the driving force for reform of a system that ensures perpetual rule for those in power. "We want equal rights with the rest of the free nations of the world," she said. "The new generation want the right to speak and write freely. They want to be able to express their hopes and opinions openly."

Indonesia was not democratic, she said: there was high-level corruption. There were labour problems, land problems, a worsening rich-poor divide, all of which had to be tackled democratically. She said change had usually come about in Indonesia violently — the old kingdoms always ended in bloodshed — but she hoped to lead a peaceful

transition. Change without chaos was possible: the transition had begun and could not be stopped. Her campaign would continue.

She said the constitution provided a "good mechanism" for electing a President, but had not been used. In 50 years of independence there had been only two Presidents — her late father and President Suharto — and the people were demanding the right to a democratically elected leader.

She acknowledged that under President Suharto the country had prospered economically and there had been peace and stability. But it was time to move on. There was a danger of violence if President Suharto died, because there was no experience in democratically choosing a new President. She said: "The older generation refuse to see what is going on."

She became the acknowledged leader of the pro-democracy movement in June after a government-backed faction

in her party deposed her and installed a new chairman — a move that confirmed intense official fear of her influence, which in turn projected her as a force to be reckoned with. She is probably the only person seriously able to challenge President Suharto, 75, who is likely to run for a seventh term in 1998 if his health holds out. He would be certain to win under the present system.

A crowd of about 10,000 rallied outside Miss Megawati's party headquarters last weekend. The gathering turned into a riot after helmeted police broke into the office and sealed it. Would-be rioters have been told they will be shot on sight.

Miss Megawati, elected party leader in 1993, has not been an especially impressive political performer. But she is the greatest force for change in more than a generation, and the Government's crackdown is proof of the threat she poses to the old order.

Wily Yeltsin cuts Lebed down to size

MORE than a month after General Aleksandr Lebed swept into the Kremlin promising to cure Russia's ills and lead it into the next century, the fortunes of the gruff soldier have begun to dim.

In the space of only six weeks, the former paratrooper and self-styled heir-in-waiting to the Kremlin leadership has discovered that his battlefield skills are of little use in the cut-throat world of Moscow politics. Undermined by President Yeltsin and outmanoeuvred by his rivals, the once-confident, and at times boastful, political hopeful has grown strangely silent.

Shortly after his appointment as secretary of the presidential security council, General Lebed served notice that he planned not only to tackle relevant issues, such as

Six weeks after the Afghan war veteran swept into the Kremlin with the swagger of a presidential heir-in-waiting, he has been outmanoeuvred by his patron, Richard Beeston writes in Moscow

fighting, and plans for a Lebed peace mission to the region have now been postponed indefinitely.

"Lebed has been completely discredited over Chechnya," said Andrei Piontkovsky, the head of the Centre for Strategic Studies in Moscow. "It is clear now that he only criticised the war as a means to pursue his rivalry with [former Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev]. Now that Grachev has been removed and the atrocities continue, Lebed sounds like all the

others in government." Another area where the Afghan War veteran was expected to use his military expertise was in the field of army reform, in particular, efforts to convert the demoralised and ill-disciplined conscript force of two million into a smaller and more professional organisation by the turn of the century.

Although General Lebed succeeded in having his nomination, General Igor Rodionov, appointed as Defence Minister, the victory was undermined by a classic piece of Yeltsin power-balancing. Last week the Russian leader ordered the creation of a defence council headed by Yuri Baturin, the Kremlin's former security chief, to tackle the reform issue. Instead of a leading role in the council's

affairs, General Lebed now finds himself as only one voice on an 18-member body.

As for the economy, his boasts that he planned to take a direct hand in administering the country's economic policies have been neutralised by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Anatoli Chubais, the new Kremlin Chief of Staff.

The consensus among Russian analysts and foreign diplomats in Moscow is that General Lebed has been manipulated by President Yeltsin. After the first round of voting in the presidential elections on June 16, the Russian leader courted the general for his 11 million voters, but since winning re-election in the second round on July 3 the Kremlin chief has neutralised General Lebed as a political force.

New twist put on the Bermuda Triangle

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, where scores of ships and planes are said to have disappeared, may have been solved by a retired Australian academic.

Richard Sylvester, a former associate professor in the department of civil engineering at the University of Western Australia, claims vortices, or whirlpools, are the reason for so many vessels and aircraft vanishing without trace in the western Atlantic between Bermuda and Florida. Now he has written a book on his theory, which he says came to him two years ago in a "brainwave" after watching a television programme about the zone.

In *The Bermuda Triangle — Mystery No More*, Mr Sylvester, who studied sea and wave action as a coastal engineer, says that a vortex in the air could create draughts strong enough to pull a plane down to the sea, where the wind generates a current in the water, creating another vortex which in turn sucks the plane to the seabed.

This might also account for the absence of any kind of evidence on the seabed. When the vortex moves through the sea it acts like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up huge amounts of sand, rock and silt, which spin around in suspension. When the whirlpool moves on, the silt settles on the floor of the ocean, where it can bury any debris up to 10ft deep, making it virtually undetectable.

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Macho Latin bulls see off Europe's wimps

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HARD on the heels of "mad cow" disease, another bovine affliction has sent a shiver through aficionados of the bullring: weedy bull syndrome.

Many European bulls bred for the ring have become enfeebled, making them poor foes for even the meekest matador. Their frailty is due to a combination of wet weather, inbreeding and over-feeding, according to a report published in France yesterday.

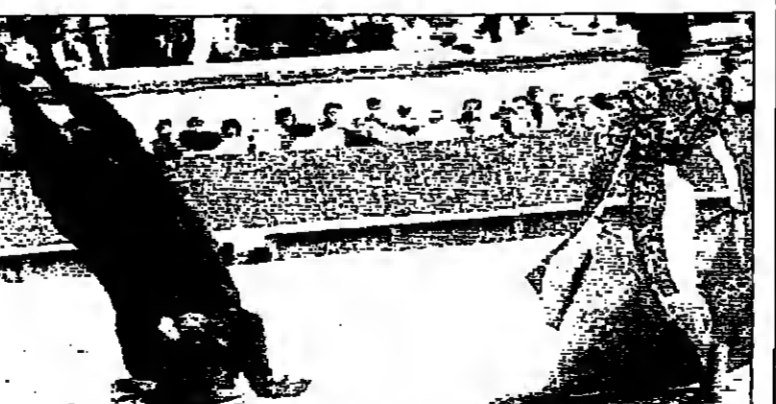
From Arles in southern France to Seville in Spain, bulls are showing a tendency to collapse under their own weight before the first *ole* has sounded. Bullfight organisers say the weakness appears to be linked to genetic problems and obesity.

Bullfight fans have come to expect

ever larger bulls, with many weighing more than half a tonne. In the weeks before a fight, breeders tended to fatten up their animals, but many bulls lack the strength to carry the sudden extra poundage and often keel over without much of a fight.

"They are artificially fed with fattening food, when they usually eat only wild grass," Hubert Yonnet, a bull-breeder from the Carmargue, told the French magazine, *Evénement du Jeudi*. Some breeders also send bulls to the ring before they have reached full five-year maturity. Inbreeding is also a problem; at least 70 per cent of Spanish fighting bulls are descended from the champion Andalusian bull, Domecq.

This year's crop of bulls is particu-



A frail bull spins over, bringing a clownish touch to the Nîmes arena

larly dodderly, with the wet, cold weather leaving many stiff in the joints, bronchial and oddly pacific. The magazine said enthusiasts are increasingly turning to South America, where the bulls are leaner and meaner. Often raised on large farms where they must travel great distances for food and water, the South

American bulls apparently grow smaller horns but bigger muscles. Once bulls from across the Atlantic were sneered at as lesser creatures, but now French and Spanish bullfighters are having to import South American breeding bulls in order, as one commentator put it, "to put the bravery back in our bulls".

March of the tartan-skirted army

Authoritative and assertive, Scottish women seem to be taking over everywhere. Giles Coren finds out why

IT BEGINS with Lorraine Kelly bounding onto GMTV at 6am and ends with Kirsty Wark signing off on *Newsnight* at 11.15pm. Unless, of course, it is one of those days when Lesley Riddoch takes *The Midnight Hour* into the small hours. In between, every day, on television and radio, in the pages of the national press and in the gossip columns, the ubiquity of Scottish women testifies to their recent, and total, conquest of the world.

There is Sheena MacDonald, presenter of *House to House*. Tracey MacLeod, late of *The Late Show*. Kirsty Young on *The Holiday Show* and Muriel Gray, whose presentation of *The Tube* launched the first series back in the early Eighties.

There are frothier warriors too, such as Carol Smiley, the model who has graduated from glamorous *Wheel of Fortune* hostess to become a presenter on *Hearts of Gold*, and models Honor Fraser and Stella Tennant, more Belgravia than *Braveheart*, but members of the same tartan army.

Genista McIntosh, the newly appointed and first female chief executive of the Royal Opera House, Rona Cameron of *Gaytime* TV... the list seems endless.

Kirsty Young, the youngest of the serious wing of the Scot Pack at 27, is only beginning to appreciate the significance of the revolution: "It hadn't really occurred to me that we were taking over the world," she says modestly. "But then it isn't so apparent when you are on the inside. It may be down to an artificial redressing of the balance, in that it has become easier to get on in television both as a woman and as someone with a regional accent, and we nicely fulfil both clauses. By being far enough away to be almost foreign, we may also have a sort of exotic quality — we are not northerners as such, or Midlandsers."

There is clearly some truth in this. "Change doesn't come about organically, but because it suddenly becomes obvious that the situation is absurd," says Lesley Riddoch, who is also associate editor of *The Scotsman* and a



The Scot pack, anti-clockwise from left, top model Stella Tennant, *Newsnight's* Kirsty Wark, Kirsty Young, Muriel Gray and GMTV's Lorraine Kelly

regular speaker on Channel 4's *People's Parliament*. "To employ a Scotswoman is to kill two birds with one stone. If you'll pardon the pun. And the bosses can say to themselves, 'Haven't we done well?'"

"I always thought the number of Irish women on television was down to their accents being classless and unpindownable — perhaps, to English ears, the same goes for the Scots accent. It is also

supposed to be earnest, and believable, as if we have thought things through."

As to why it is the women, rather than the men, who are ubiquitous, there are different theories. "In terms of broadcasting, Scotsmen are very taciturn," says Ms Riddoch. "It is said that women develop communication skills earlier than men, and perhaps that is even more the case in a macho environment like Scotland. So

many of our decision-makers are men, and I sometimes think that women are connecting up the thoughts of the men, and presenting them. In a macho society, where men don't like speaking, women are pushed into it."

Kirsty Young has another idea. "It might be that we are slightly better looking! Scottish men are everywhere in politics, and as women we avoid that association with the lumpy, ill-fitting suits of

Westminster. We are also better at being bossy, and tend to get very stern when we lose our tempers, which producers are very keen on. It is the practice we get keeping our men in line!"

It is also more unusual — and therefore more interesting — to see a woman in a dark suit giving someone a hard time, than a man. There is still a sort of novelty value attached."

Lorraine Kelly sees social advantages in being Scottish: "It can be difficult to establish a rapport with a Hollywood star who is doing 110 other interviews. But as soon as they see I am Scottish they always turn out to have an Auntie Fanny in Skye, or be interested in golf or something. Kirk Douglas kept asking me to say things because he liked the accent, and Bette Midler grilled me about where to visit when she was in Scotland. It helps you to stand out."

Or rather, at GMTV, to fit in. "There is definitely a Scottish mafia here," says Ms Kelly. "Maybe it's because we are all a bit sassy, a bit sparky, but also warm. It's difficult to explain..."

They are also tough, and involved in the gritty end, by and large, of the business. "That is because there is no tradition of light entertainment in Scotland," says Kirsty Young. "What Scottish television makes for itself is news and current affairs programmes, so that whatever we do, ultimately that will always be where our grounding lies."

The result is a certain sternness. "Scottish women on television tend not to be coquettish or flirty. It could come from being taught by blue-stocking schoolmistresses of the Miss Jean Brodie type. It could be something in the water. Or the haggis."

Kirsty Wark, who is held up by the younger generation as one of the pioneers, has also seen a mafia emerging. "*Newsnight* is overrun with Scots. I can see at least four from here. Two women, two men. Maybe it's because we are brought up to be tough and assertive, and have to wear all that woad."

"The smallness of BBC Scotland makes the training very rigorous, and the lack of money means a lot of airtime to fill with unprepared talk. After a few years of that you form some pretty strong opinions."

They are certainly more politicised than their southern counterparts, and most have chosen to remain in Scotland despite the allure of London. "People like Ruth Wishart, Sheena MacDonald, Muriel and myself are fiercely committed to a separate parliament for Scotland," says Lesley Riddoch. "None admit to being part of a defined coterie. 'We are so mobile,' says Ms Riddoch, "that we don't even see our partners that much, let alone each other," but they do bump into each other occasionally on the Shuttle.

"Scotland is a tiny little pool of people," says Kirsty Young. "And the media circle is not huge. I know Kirsty and Muriel, and I have met Lesley a few times. But we don't all sit around together on Friday nights clinking champagne glasses saying, 'Congratulations lassies we've got it all sewn up!'"

Nor, though, do they fear for the future — despite the notorious whim of media controllers whose image of the ideal employee wafers with fashion.

"I think we are too entrenched now," says Lorraine Kelly. "Can you imagine someone trying to get rid of us? What man would want to try to do that?"

Jason Cowley on a campaigner who threatens to return his MBE

The history of the Gulf Support Group is the history of an obsession. Established in a spirit of defiance after some 3,000 British citizens were taken hostage following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait six years ago today, the group is now mired in debt and bitterness.

It survives only through the stubborn determination of its founder, the Coventry businessman Stephen Brookes. But even he is losing faith: he threatens to return his MBE — awarded for humanitarian work on behalf of the hostages — in protest at what he perceives to be a lack of government interest in their plight. Once a source of pride, his medal now serves as a reminder of what has gone wrong.

It all began for Mr Brookes and his wife Josie when they received a phone call from their closest friend, Wen Li. Her husband Eric Watson, best man at their wedding, had been taken hostage after his plane was intercepted on a refuelling stop in Kuwait.

"The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had been headline news for several days, but now it hit us between the eyes," wrote Josie Brookes in her book about the crisis, *The Human Shield*. "We were so angry, so bitter, so frustrated at the lack of news, we were galvanised into action."

What they were then not to know was just how much their involvement with the hostages was to cost them, not just in financial terms but personally. As Mr Brookes, 49, became increasingly caught up in his quest to free the hostages and then later to gain compensation for them, so the distinction between his private and public self dissolved.

"The whole thing has been a disaster for us," he says. "We have lived with nothing but this crisis for the past six years. Before this started, we were just a middle-of-the-road professional couple. [Mr Brookes worked in sales and marketing for an engineering company]. But now we are virtually second-degree hostages of Iraq."

After struggling to maintain a normal relationship, Stephen and Josie finally divorced last year. "We allowed the pressure of the campaign to destroy our marriage. I was working from home and it meant that we had no respite from everything that was

Why I am still a hostage to the Gulf War



Stephen and Josie Brookes: a high price to pay

going on. We had no one else to turn to." Although they are now living together again, they have no plans to remarry. Money remains an endless difficulty: only last week their telephone was disconnected because they were unable to pay the bill. Mr Brookes says: "We have put something like £60,000 of our own money into the group: we have been to hell and back — and still there is no sign of a resolution."

The former hostage James Ure has met Mr Brookes on several occasions over the past six years. "Stephen is consumed by a sense of wrong," he says. "But I sometimes wonder if people realise how much he himself has suffered. The campaign has gone beyond the Gulf War now, beyond everything."

When the Gulf Support Group was set up it had the backing of MPs, big business and many volunteers, and the Government helped to fund a London office. The Gulf Support Trust was also created to handle donations and to help

pay for the enormous expense of running a support group. But just as many of the hostages have suffered in silence, so Mr Brookes has watched his interest in his campaign dissipate.

London office was closed early in 1991, donations ceased around the same time and the Government withdrew after making £147,000 available to establish trauma centres for the hostages at two London hospitals.

"Once the hostages got off the plane most people assumed that the group had served its purpose," Mr Brookes says. "Of course, the real work was only just beginning. After the initial euphoria, the hostages had to face the reality of unemployment, post-traumatic stress and life on social security."

"When the Iraqis invaded, these people lost their homes and their businesses; women were raped. It's not hard to see why they have struggled to cope, especially when they haven't had the necessary counselling." He says that in the past five years, 17 of the

hostages have died from "stress-related illnesses", there have been several suicides and many have succumbed to alcoholism as they wrestle with debt and loneliness.

Not a month passes but he receives a letter from one of the hostages "desperate for help and advice". Many seem compelled endlessly to recount the story of their incarceration.

He also receives letters from MPs orchestrating campaigns on behalf of constituents. In a letter to the Foreign Secretary, Iain Sproat, the Heritage Minister, described how one of his constituents had had his life ruined by his experience as a hostage: "The farmers, struck disastrously by the consequences of BSE, are to be compensated. Yet the Foreign Office refuses to help these British nationals whose lives have been ruined through no fault of their own. My constituent has been driven to despair over this."

James Ure was working as a chef at Baghdad Airport when he was taken hostage. Since returning to Britain he has suffered from depression and ill health. Now 60, he is scratching a living from odd jobs after being evicted from his house earlier this year. "Like many of the hostages, I came back to no job and no prospects. My marriage has broken up and if it wasn't for Stephen's work, I don't think I would have made it."

Mr Brookes says that interest in frozen Iraqi assets in Britain may hold the key to the compensation problem. "My research suggests that Iraq has assets of £748 million tied up in British banks. The interest alone could be used to help the hostages." The response of the Foreign Office is categorical: "Security Council resolutions do not allow the interest on Iraqi funds held in UK banks to be taken to meet claims of UK nationals."

That is no help to Mr Brookes, who has the forlorn look of one who feels that a great injustice has been committed. Although he insists that his life will eventually return to normal, there is, in truth, nothing but doubt in his expressions of confidence.

His obsession must surely now seem like a kind of imprisonment. There is no possibility of release. He has come too far.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Fighting for the unborn child

The founder of Life, Professor Jack Scarisbrick, is against IVF treatment — but he is appalled by the destruction of embryos

The Life movement is neither fashionable nor popular. Its founder, Professor Jack Scarisbrick, is a big man of 67 with a rufous face, a loudly striped shirt and an air of being a bit of a loner. He knocked on the door of 10 Downing Street on Wednesday, fruitlessly: there was to be no reprieve for the 3,000 frozen embryos now being disposed of at fertility clinics.

The embryos are microscopic clusters of cells, the size of a typewritten full stop. Their humanity is debatable, and the whole issue is clouded by sentiment and misapprehension, but this week the reasoning public had to question why, under an arbitrary five-year rule, the embryos, once so yearned for by infertile couples, are now being discarded.

Another reminder of how far science has advanced beyond our ability to cope with the resulting human and social chaos.

John Joseph Scarisbrick, born in suburban London, was a fifth child; with three older sisters and a brother who had Down's syndrome. "So I think I was lucky not to be conceived post-1967. My mother, who was 43 with a severely disabled husband [he died when Jack was five] plus a Down's child and three other children, would have been pressurised not to proceed with the pregnancy."

Jack grew up inveterately happy. After two years in the RAF "treated like vermin by the NCOs" he arrived at Christ's College Cambridge, heard the porter call him "sir" and had six happy years there. He then embarked on 15 happy years teaching at Queen Mary College, followed by 25 happy years as professor of history at exciting new Warwick University (where Germaine Greer was writing her *Female Eunuch* and scaring the pants off him). He met "a gorgeous girl" named Nuala, they produced two daughters and he wrote two books (on Henry VIII and the Reformation) and lives to this day in a

Victorian villa with a magnificent walled garden "where you might be rules from the tumult of modern life".

Modern life encroached in 1970. The professor, a new father, was incensed by David Steel's "intellectually contemptible" Abortion Bill arguments that the child in the womb was morally inferior and disposable because "dependent". "Dependence implies duties on the person dependent on. If dependence denotes disposability, then my daughter was disposable too." He founded Life, which has fought abortion, IVF treatment and embryo experiments ever since.

Life was to have no religious affiliation, he insisted, but yes, he is a Roman Catholic. "But my wife gets very angry when people say 'you're doing this because your husband's a Catholic'."

They took the absolutist stance that the destruction of the child in the womb is always wrong. But they also realised "it wasn't enough to say 'thou shalt not'. Not every pregnancy is wanted, even in a happy marriage. We needed to provide a helpline like the Samaritans, and a pregnancy care service". They have 200 branches run by volunteers, and get 100,000 calls a year.

The professor admires the American right-to-life movement for making it a central political issue "which we have not succeeded in doing". What about the US pro-life movement's propensity for aggressive, murderous, anti-life activity?

"Two or three weird extremists out of tens of thou-

sands," he says. "We have the occasional oddball join us but they don't stay because Life is hard work. Our counsellors undergo rigorous training and selection. And they have to test urine samples. That sorts them out."

There is no love lost between the professor and the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Authority. Will the two sides ever agree on the question of when life begins?

The HEFA decided on 14 days (when the primitive streak, which becomes the spinal cord, appears).

"If you deny that life begins with the fusion of sperm with ovum, the big bang, an explosion of energy, when does it begin? Professor Robert Edwards has written categorically that life begins at fertilisation. The former Archbishop John Habgood espoused an absurd agnosticism: "It has no beginning, it is a process." Wonderful Anglican waffle.



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Professor Jack Scarisbrick: "If you deny that life begins with the fusion of sperm with ovum, when does it begin?"

Atlanta needs a winning streak

ONLY two days of the Olympic Games to go, and not yet a single streaker. There have been Michael Johnson's golden running shoes, Armenian athletes chasing a local prostitute down the street — the speed she went, we could have used her in the British team — and the temporary hijack of the Princess Royal's car by

Quentin Letts is hoping for a flash of inspiration at the Olympic Games

our gold medallists Redgrave and Pinsent. But not a single, measly streak.

In Britain it has been a summer sans culottes. There was the plump-bottomed streaker at Wimbledon, a

featherless birdie at the Open, and the naked man who this week interrupted the Webster's World Darts Match-play, even as the sharp-pointed arrows were flying. Afterwards he had a biting

walk home down Blackpool's promenade with nothing to shield him from the stiff sea breeze. Then, last weekend, two men stripped off in front of the Queen during the Cartier polo at Windsor. Her Majesty was amused.

In America, however, streaking is almost unknown, a sorry state of affairs that surely says something about the odd, almost perverted prudishness in this land of free expression and lurid sexual lowlife. American magazines are often absurdly sensitive about ticklish advertisements for products such as bras and deodorants, ads which are carried without a moment's thought by European titles. On the beaches of the Hamptons, the fashionable weekend enclave on New York's Long Island, bikini tops are very much kept on, even though everyone is happy to tune in to the Robin Byrd midnight striptease show on the local cable television service.

AMERICA does have the weather for streaking: Atlanta is formidably balmy. The people certainly have the *joie de vivre*, the eye for self-promotion, and many have the basic equipment. Sure, there are a lot of fannies, but there are also countless keep-fit fanatics who would look swell in their birthday suits.

Joyce Brothers, a New York psychologist, believes it is simply that America has fallen out of the streaking fashion. "We did have streaking in the Seventies on the college campuses," she recalled, almost wistfully, "and someone once streaked behind David Niven at the Academy Awards." Dr Brothers interprets streaking as a way of stating one's independence, of putting other people down, and telling them that they are stuffy and uptight. "Perhaps that's why you Brits are at it all the time," she said.

A streaker would have provided a valuable service here. Those of us in the press tent would have scurried after the culprit in search of vital statistics and a few comments rather than writing about all the disorganisation and, of course, the bomb.

What the Atlanta Games needs is a damned good streak. There are still two days left, so on yer marks, get set, and get 'em off.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE August 1: His Excellency Mr Ashworth Elwin and Mrs Elwin were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Dominica in London.

Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Lancers, received Lieutenant Colonel Alick Finlayson upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Rudi Wertheim upon assuming the appointment.

His Excellency Mr Roy MacLaren was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Canada in London.

His Excellency Mr Roy MacLaren was also received by The Queen. His Excellency Mr Salvo Stellini and Mrs Stellini were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Malawi in London.

Mr Charles Noble was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr Kevan Yozall was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Royal Air Force Lossiemouth from Norway this afternoon and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Morayshire (Air Vice-Marshal George Chesworth).



Ingeborg Pertwee at the memorial service yesterday for her husband, with their son Sean, and Bill Pertwee

Memorial service for Jon Pertwee

A SERVICE of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Jon Pertwee was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. Canon Roger Roy officiated.

Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconell

Further to the announcement of the memorial service for Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconell at noon on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at St George's, Hanover Square, London W1, as space is limited, those wishing to be seated should apply to Mrs Susan Stanford, 10 Welbeck Way, London W1M 7PE, telephone 0171-435 0075.

The Hon Simon Weinstock

A Memorial Concert in memory of the Hon Simon Weinstock will be held at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on Friday, October 4, at 8pm. Admission will be by ticket only.

Madame Kazuko Aso

A Memorial Mass, to give thanks for the life and work of Kazuko Aso (Mrs Takakichi Aso, Hon DBE), will be held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair, London, W1A 1JN, on Monday, October 14, 1996. All friends will be welcome.

Mr Tony Bethell

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Tony Bethell will be held at Beverley Minster on Monday, August 19, at 2.30pm.

Wax Chandlers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Wax Chandlers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr David J. La Niece; Upper Warden, Mr Michael Hart; Renter Warden, Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Bailey, RN.

Cardiff Law School

Centre for Professional Legal Studies Legal Practice Course Results for 1995-96:

Pass Akhtar N; Bedi S; Bhagat F; Bond C D; Caplan E R; Clappe T W J; Cleary S N; Cogar R M; De Saullis D J; Delbridge K L; Denton K; Elliott B J; Ellis M J; Fletcher N R; Geddies A; Ikenashi K U; Kim N K; Komer H L; Last M L; Locke R J; Malique M A M; Martin E J; Matthews S A; Miles R D; Mohamed P A; Moore R B; Mosley A; Paskell J L; Pichalki S M; Pitt R M; Rees J B; Shumleworth P A; Stinson C; Tassef P L; Taylor M G; Thomas R H; Thomas S J; Thorne R; Todd A J; Webber F E; White D M; Williams C R.

Cardiff Law School

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Cardiff Law School

Pass with Distinction Bignmore R E; Buckiewicz L A; David R; Davies F L; Giddings J; Graville C L; Hobbs A J L; Hughes D J; Leach B; Loomore S J; Mainwaring H J; Minihane M R; Rowledge M; Scott C L A; Trenberth V L; Wilson A V K.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.W.G. Bell and Miss J.L. Harrison The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Sir Peter and Mrs P.M. Bell, of St Cross, Winchester, and Judith, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.F. Harrison, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Church news

Appointments Canon Gordon Reid, Vicar-General of the diocese in Europe; to be also Archdeacon in Europe, same diocese.

Good Health in Old Age

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Advertisements for RENTALS, FLATSHARE, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, and other notices.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

BUSINESS

Tough lessons for managers on outdoor courses
PAGES 21-27

ARTS

Robbie Williams plays it safe on his first solo single
PAGES 29-31

SPORT

Chinese diver extends her board monopoly
PAGES 32-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 38-39

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 2 1996



Making their mark: Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of TI, and Brian Walsh, vice-chairman, are looking for bolt-on acquisitions. The engineering group increased profits by 43 per cent to £125 million in the first half. The trading outlook remains mixed. Page 22, *Tempus* 24

Deutsche set to challenge both BT and Mercury

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM is planning a serious challenge to Mercury Communications and BT in the corporate telecommunications market by joining forces with Bell Cablemedia and Videotron.

The link with the two cable companies would give Deutsche Telekom access to the bulk of the business clients in Europe's financial capital because their franchise spans Westminster, the City of London and Canary Wharf. Bell Cablemedia and Videotron, in turn, would get an instant international partner because Deutsche Telekom, along with France Telecom and Sprint, the third-largest American long-distance carrier, is a member of the Global One partnership. Global One competes with Concert, BT's joint venture with MCI of America, and Unisource, which was formed by AT&T and several smaller European carriers.

of an announcement by the end of the month. Bringing Deutsche Telekom and Bell Cablemedia together faces complications because of the latter's ownership structure. Bell Cablemedia is owned 42 per cent by Bell Canada International, 12.3 per cent by Jones Interchangeable of Denver, and 12.8 per cent by Cable and Wireless, which owns 80 per cent of Mercury Communications. Bell Canada International in principle supports the idea of bringing Deutsche Telekom on board, but C&W, observers said, may resist such a proposal because the new group could emerge as a leading competitor to Mercury in the business market.

Another loose end is Eurobell, a relatively small cable company that is indirectly owned by Deutsche Telekom and a trust, the beneficiary of which is J. Paul Getty. Eurobell, which considers its current ownership structure unworkable, may decide to link with Bell Cablemedia and Videotron if Deutsche Telekom completes the deal. Cable companies have complained to Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, that BT is still approaching ex-directory cable customers to try to win them back. The complaint comes less than two weeks after Ofcom accepted BT's explanation that it did not intentionally use confidential information when it contacted the customers. BT blamed the calls on a computer encoding error. TeleWest Communications, the largest cable company, yesterday said Stephen Davidson is to become acting chief executive. Mr Davidson, who was finance director, replaces Alan Michels, who resigned on Wednesday.

Yorkshire Electricity to boost dividend by 34%

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE Electricity yesterday kicked off what is expected to be a fresh round of bonanzas for utility shareholders, with the promise of a 34.4 per cent rise in next year's dividend. The move was seen as an attempt to thwart a windfall tax on privatised utilities. Chris Hampson, chairman, revealed plans for the large increase in pay-out at the company's annual meeting in Grimsby. He said Yorkshire would deliver the value to shareholders because of its "continuing excellent performance". The company, one of the five independent regional electricity companies, also re-

newed its remit to spend about £110 million buying back 10 per cent of its own shares. City analysts are expecting a spate of shareholder bonanzas from the utilities as the possibility of a Labour government - with its threat of a windfall tax - moves closer. A report from SBC Warburg, the broker, advises investors to expect returns of about £1.3 billion from several utilities in 1996-97, as they gear up in the approach to the election. It expects the more politically neutral share buy-backs to gain in popularity. Electricity companies are likely to deliver far greater returns because they are less limited by the water companies by capital expenditure demands.

Since 1994 more than £5.8 billion has been returned by utility companies to shareholders in share buy-backs and special dividends. National Power made corporate history several weeks ago with a £1.1 billion special dividend. Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst with Yamaichi, said that the threat of a utilities tax from a new government was a consideration for companies planning shareholder returns. "They don't really want to serve up their balance sheets on a platter to a Labour government," he said. On Wednesday, Thames Water spent £224.5 million buying back 10 per cent of its shares. Yorkshire hinted yesterday at fresh developments beyond

the dividend increase and buy-back authorisation. The company said that its board "intends to keep the issue of further returns of value to shareholders under review". Yorkshire's net dividend will rise to 52.66p per share, compared with a 10 per cent increase previously forecast. The increase will be cut back to more modest proportions in 1997-98, with the company expecting a 7 per cent jump on the 96-97 figure. The scale of the increase surprised the City and Yorkshire's share price jumped 25p, to 707p. Expectations of similar action across the sector helped to lift the shares of a number of other regional electricity companies. Utilities are expected to

become an increasingly emotive political subject as election campaigning starts in earnest. Labour is thought to be nurturing an armoury of fat-cat offensives as it reinforces its arguments for a windfall tax, which could net up to £5 billion. Mr Hampson told shareholders that their boost was complemented by benefits to customers. He announced a 6.8 per cent reduction in electricity prices for domestic and small business customers, making Yorkshire's electricity the cheapest in the country. However, 5.7 per cent of that decrease has been fuelled by the reduction in the fossil fuel levy announced recently by the electricity regulator after the flotation of British Energy.

Blow over Yorkshire Water debt

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

YORKSHIRE WATER suffered a fresh blow yesterday when Moody's credit agency downgraded its debt and raised fears over its water resources. Moody's said its outlook for Yorkshire Water was negative. "If the current plan proves to be inadequate, the water business faces further significant expenditures and increased operational risk." The agency said there were concerns over whether the management would deliver infrastructure spending without material increases over planned levels. Moody's downgraded long-term debt from A1 to A2.3. The short-term rating is unaffected.

Consumer confidence is lifting but not booming

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER confidence is gradually improving across the country but there is no sign of a 1980s-style boom, according to a survey published today by Business Strategies. David Fell, the director responsible for the quarterly consumer survey, said that the consumer side of the economy was picking up strongly. However, he gave warning that it was generally high level of confidence that was impressive rather than any sign of rapid improvement. The proportion of people who feel optimistic rather than pessimistic about the economic situation was double that recorded two years ago but still slightly lower than the same time last year. Optimism

about household finances was about the same as a year ago but there was a definite, although small, improvement in the proportion of people more willing to take the risk of a major purchase. The overall measure of consumer sentiment - 15 - was the same as in the first and third quarters of last year but nevertheless marked a large improvement from the 10 recorded two years ago. The Business Strategies finding came after another survey yesterday from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, which showed that British manufacturing expanded marginally for the second month in a row. It also showed that, for the second month running, it is

production and orders of consumer goods that have been the most buoyant sector. Orders of investment goods, which had been falling for five months, also returned to growth. The overall Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 50.9 in July, compared with 50.7 in June. Output rose but at a slightly lower rate than in June. Any figure above 50 shows manufacturing is expanding, while a figure below that shows a contraction. The most stunning element of the survey was that the institute's Prices Index fell to a new record low, proof that no inflationary pressures are emanating from industry and backing forecasts that retail prices are set to fall further.

House price rise 'highest for 7 years'

By OUR CITY STAFF

HOUSE prices rose last month at their highest rate for almost seven years, according to figures today from the Halifax Building Society. Prices for all types of homes were 5.3 per cent ahead of July last year, the fastest pace of increase since October 1989 and up from 4.0 per cent in June. The cost of a property rose 0.5 per cent between June and July after a 0.4 downward flip between May and June, the only monthly fall for almost a year. A spokesman for the Halifax, the UK's largest mortgage lender, said July's reversal of June's small fall supported the society's view that prices should remain broadly stable over the summer before starting to edge up again towards the end of the year.

Psion paid £1.5m in fees over Amstrad

By JASON NISSE



Potter: fees relatively 'modest'

PSION, the maker of hand-held computers, spent £1.5 million in fees to City firms that investigated whether it should go ahead with its aborted £230 million bid approach for Amstrad, the electronics group run by Alan Sugar. David Potter, Psion chairman, said the fees included work on assessing other potential purchases, and added: "They are modest when compared with what they would have been had we proceeded with the transaction." Psion employed two merchant banks, Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Charterhouse, two firms of lawyers, Slaughter & May and Painsners, and

Arthur Andersen, the accountant, and Brunswick, the public relations firm. It began talking to Amstrad - after an approach by Mr Sugar - only in May and ended the talks last month when the two sides failed to agree on a price. Even at top City rates of £300 an hour, the fees equate to 5,000 person hours on the case, or 3.5 professionals working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all of the negotiations. Mike Langley, Psion finance director, said that the fees were agreed before the talks. "This was a potentially extremely important acquisition for Psion and we needed the fullest and most professional advice," he said. Psion's declaration will, fuel the

debate on City fees, fired by disclosures that Granada's £3.9 billion bid for Forte cost £100 million and that the £3.2 billion merger of Lucas Industries and Varty will cost £29 million in fees. Psion wrote off the costs in full in its half-year figures, brought forward to quell speculation about strategy after the Amstrad deal fell apart. Pre-tax profits, after writing off the £1.5 million, rose 27 per cent, to £6.5 million, underwritten largely by the success of Psion 3a palmtop computers. Earnings per share rose by 18 per cent, to 5.85p. An interim dividend of 0.65p (0.5p) is due on September 27.

Tempus, page 24



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Far East sales help lift profit at Rotork

By Fraser Nelson

CONTINUING demand for Rotork's Far East helped lift profit...

The company said that sales to the US have returned to normal levels...

The UK sector was hit by a lack of demand from British water companies...

Bill Whiteley, chief executive of Rotork, saw his UK sector hit by lack of demand from British water companies...



Bill Whiteley, chief executive of Rotork, saw his UK sector hit by lack of demand from British water companies...

Shell confident it will shake off slump in petrochemicals

By Carl Mortished

JOHN JENNINGS, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said the Shell oil group was on target to raise its performance...

Shell's net income for the second quarter was down 9 per cent on a current-cost basis to £1.9 billion...

"We believe we are still on the way to achieve our targets. We have no cause for serious concern."

The Anglo Dutch oil multinational set itself the objective of raising its return on average capital employed to 12 per cent...

Profits in the second quarter to £184 million, although it was an improvement on the first quarter.

The continuing slump in the petrochemicals market and weak refining margins offset a sharp rise in profits from exploration and production.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Days, and Rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

Lasmo says it is clear of US ban



Darby: exploration costs

LASMO, the oil exploration company, says that it will not be affected by American legislation barring companies from trading with states accused of sponsoring terrorism in Libya...

and seeking partners to expand the drilling programme. The company, which has a much larger exploration programme in Algeria...

affected by higher exploration spending and finance costs. Earnings per share rose from 1.4p to 3.9p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Construction output and jobs threatened

BRITAIN'S construction industry yesterday gave warning of a further fall in output, and the loss of 30,000 more jobs...

Warning that the downturn in the industry's prospects has only recently bottomed out, the industry was sceptical about some Government interpretations of favourable prospects for the industry.

Hinchliffe hearing

A HEARING to decide whether Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial Sheffield businessman, should be struck off as a director will not take place until January 23 at the earliest.

Lloyd's warns names

LLOYD'S of London has told names who have launched a last ditch effort at securing a better settlement that the threat of legal action will not produce further concessions.

Nat Power in US deal

NATIONAL POWER yesterday completed a £105 million deal to buy a gas-fired power station in Massachusetts.

AIM reaches 200

THE Alternative Investment Market will be welcoming its 200th member today, as SCI Entertainment comes to the market with a capitalisation of £17.4 million.

Rand hits fresh lows

SOUTH AFRICA'S embattled rand continued its plunge yesterday, hitting new lows against the pound and the mark.

Black Arrow stems fall

BLACK ARROW GROUP, the office-furniture supplier, said a flurry of activity in the last month of its financial year stemmed an expected drop in pre-tax profits...

Huntingdon recovers

HUNTINGDON International, the life-sciences company, returned to profit in the first half, reporting £2.6 million pre-tax for the six months to June 30, compared with a loss of £28.4 million for the same period last year.

Wise holds interim

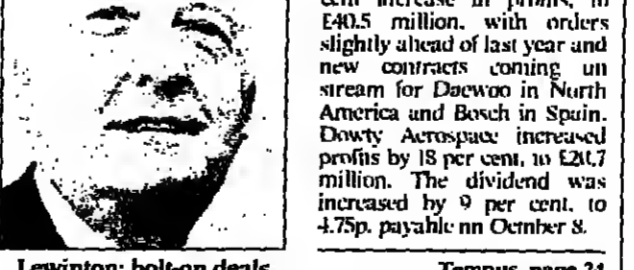
DIFFICULT trading conditions affected Leslie Wise, the textile group, as its pre-tax profits eased to £1.41 million (£1.51 million) in the six months to May 31.

TI sets acquisition ceiling at £350m

By Alasdair Murray

TI GROUP, the engineering company, is to continue looking for bolt-on acquisitions but is not considering a major acquisition in the near future.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, said the company did not want to become driven at the expense of its other operations. TI would concentrate on bolt-on deals between £50 million and £300 million.



Lewinton: bolt-on deals

TI said that while the North American market was strong and aerospace orders were increasing, the European market remained difficult.

Dow surge gives a boost to European stock markets

By Janet Bush

WALL Street rose strongly yesterday, providing a fillip to European stock markets, after evidence that the American economy may have started to cool down from its bumper performance in the spring.

At one point, the Dow Jones industrial average surged by more than 50 points, lifting Luxton shares, which had been moving sideways for most of the session.

Signs of US economy cooling

By Janet Bush

THE purchasing managers' index fell to 58.2 from 54.3. Production, new orders and new export orders all indicated reduced rates of growth.

This report was interpreted by stock and bond markets as arguing against an interest rate rise when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on August 21.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES. UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK. A.R. BARON & CO. INC. Debtor. NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS AND CREDITORS OF A.R. BARON & CO. INC. AND TO ALL OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES. CARLTON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LIMITED. IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985. NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24th July 1996...

daughter, Leonarda Rosa, a name and address. Home and address. After blank looks from the recep...

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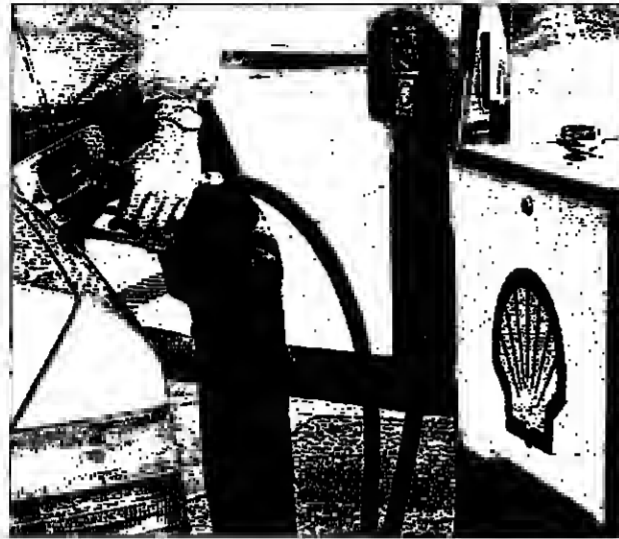
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

US blow to Hanson plans for demerger

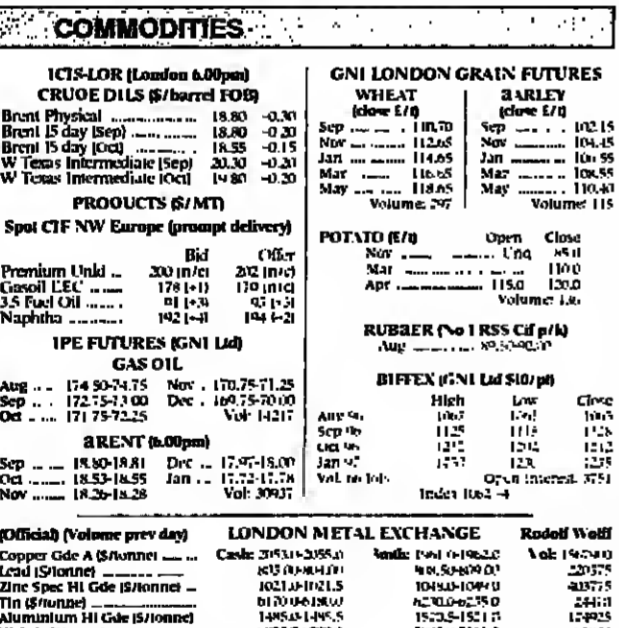
THE PROPOSED demerger of Hanson... has suffered a major setback. Last night, Hanson was nursing a fall of 4 1/2 per cent on turnover of 22 million shares after it emerged that the group was having to undergo major restructuring at its SCM chemicals division in the US.



Brokers lowered estimates for Shell, whose shares fell to 911p

up to 10 per cent of its shares. The shares rose 20p to 707p. Northern Ireland Electricity continued to lose ground in the wake of publication of the industry regulator's pricing proposals, with the price falling 4p to 349p.

After rejecting Hays' terms this week Christian Salvesen jumped 10p to 366p. As brokers point out, the Salvesen family, with 40 per cent of the shares, has left the door open to a higher offer from Hays. Word is it may be a straight cash offer of about 375p, with a deal of 400p for those willing to accept Hays paper.



Premier Farnell shares depressed after meeting with brokers

Yorkshire Electricity got a warm response to plans to improve shareholder value by raising dividends sharply higher. The dividend payment for 1996-97 will soar 34.4 per cent to 52.6p, compared with last year's 10 per cent increase. In 1994, it distributed 90p a share and last year paid a special 100p dividend. The company is seeking shareholder permission to buy back

but has been in decline since then. Brokers expressed disappointment with interim figures from Shell showing a downturn in the second quarter. A number have begun lowering their profit estimates for the full year. The company blamed a poor performance from its chemical operations that saw its contribution halved. The shares reflected

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major indices: New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues: ANO International, Alizyme, Allied Carpets, Adams, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues: Inspira n/p (100), Lorient n/p (250), Old English n/p (100), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes: Rises: Admiral (+20p), Tread (+21p), etc.

TEMPUS Shelling out may be wise

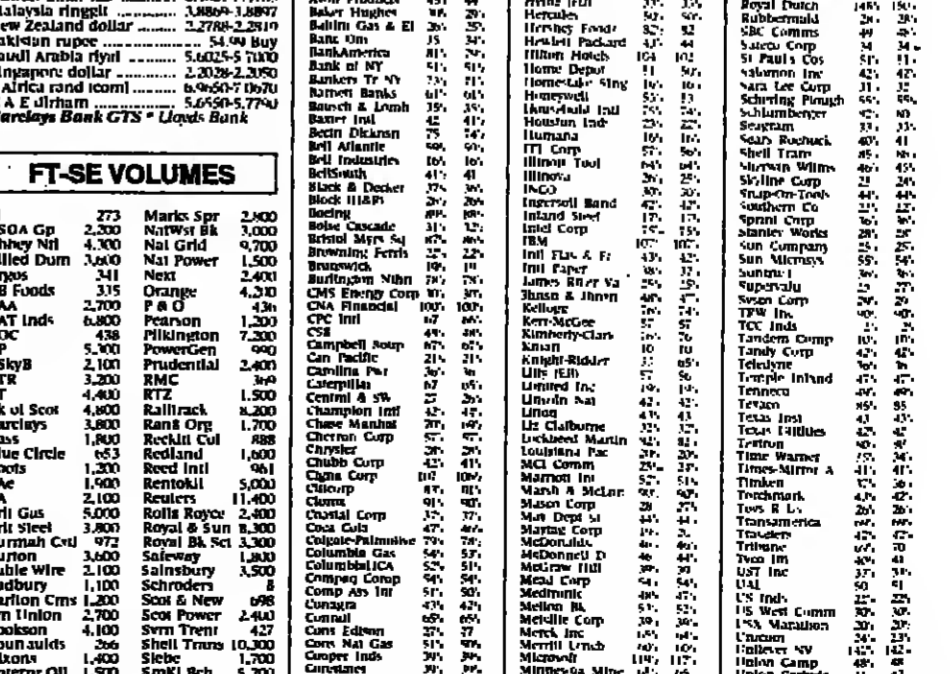
ONCE again, the oil price is the rescue of Shell. There were plenty of good reasons for the setback in Shell's second quarter profits, and the downturn should not spoil the outlook for the year. Production was slightly lower than expected because of extraneous events, and the strength of sterling did not help. Yet, the longer-term picture is not particularly reassuring.

Shell was able to point out with confidence that its own size precluded a downstream alliance with another oil company, such as that orchestrated between BP and Mubil. The resulting market share would create unacceptable dominance in any number of jurisdictions. But, what investors wanted to hear was not news of external alliances, but internal action to cut some of its underperforming refining capacity.

TI Group UNRELENTING success may seem like a chairman's dream but for companies such as TI, it can create its own problems. TI has been transformed in the past ten years from a loose consumer-based business to one of the country's few globally competitive engineering businesses.

Lasmo LASMO was hinting heavily yesterday of new prospects in new countries where it is negotiating oil exploration licences. The company has been awarded new exploration blocks in Italy and Egypt, and has recently set up a vehicle with a Kuwaiti partner aimed at securing a position in the Gulf.

Psion POOR old Psion is looking a little sorry for itself now its deal to buy Amstrad has fallen through. Since The Times revealed that talks were on, and prior to the deal crater-



Aerospac uplift

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures: FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table listing sterling exchange rates: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, India, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table listing life insurance options: Allianz, Aviva, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposits: Currency, Dollar, Deutsche Mark, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table listing gold and precious metals prices: Bullion, Gold, Silver, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates: MT Rates for August, Copenhagen, Dublin, etc.

26 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including ABN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD, AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD, and others. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

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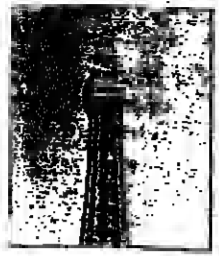
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الجمعة 2 أغسطس 1996



■ SNAPSHOT

The final day of our series on top tourist attractions finds that Blackpool Tower sure isn't what it used to be



■ THEATRE

Surprising clash of cultures: a Romanian troupe brings Murder in the Cathedral to London

THE TIMES ARTS



■ PROM

John Pickard's impressive new work The Flight of Icarus has its first London performance



■ JAZZ

Piano man Mose Allison shows why he is still the world's hippest 'Certified Senior Citizen'

Michael Henderson takes a daytrip to the 'Versailles of working-class England': Blackpool Tower

Strand that time forgot

You reach it through a small aquarium which stocks a few unremarkable species of fish, and leave it by a noisy entertainment parlour where bored stallholders may try to sell you a fluffy bear. But nobody goes there to buy an ursine toy, or to gawp at something with fins. In their thousands they come to Blackpool still, and most of them go up the Tower.

To be absolutely precise, they visit something called Tower World, which is how "Britain's greatest seaside attraction" presents itself. That is Blackpool all over, talking itself up like a boastful schoolboy, but it happens to be a fact. The tower, for 102 years the tolerant guardian of a naughty town, is one of Britain's top ten tourist attractions.



Take a rather rickety lift, scramble up to the viewing gallery, and the Irish Sea is under one nostril, the Winter Gardens under the other. According to the tower's brochure, this experience is the highlight of any Blackpool holiday, and the claim may not be far off. At least up there the holidaymaker is 518ft 9in above the dowdy streets. It is an unlovely town. The fairest minds must concede that. But the fairest minds do not go there, favouring instead Umbria and the Dordogne, where towers look different. Mucky old Blackpool can only parade what Phillip Larkin, lamenting the passing of common civic values, called "a cast of crooks and tarts". It must be the only town in the world where pubs employ bouncers on their doors at lunchtime.

If every kingdom needs a palace, then the tower is the Versailles of working-class England, a Sans-Souci of proletarian tat. So why do people keep coming? They do not come as they used to, in the 1930s and 1940s, when Frank Randle was the king of the piers and the ties of industrial urban life were more binding. But the fact that they come at all is a social phenomenon. A stroll along the Golden Mile, where stars of Coronation Street hang from every lamppost, reveals a vista of unremitting grimness. This is where people come to drink in the Merrie England bar, and croon along in Nellie Dean's.

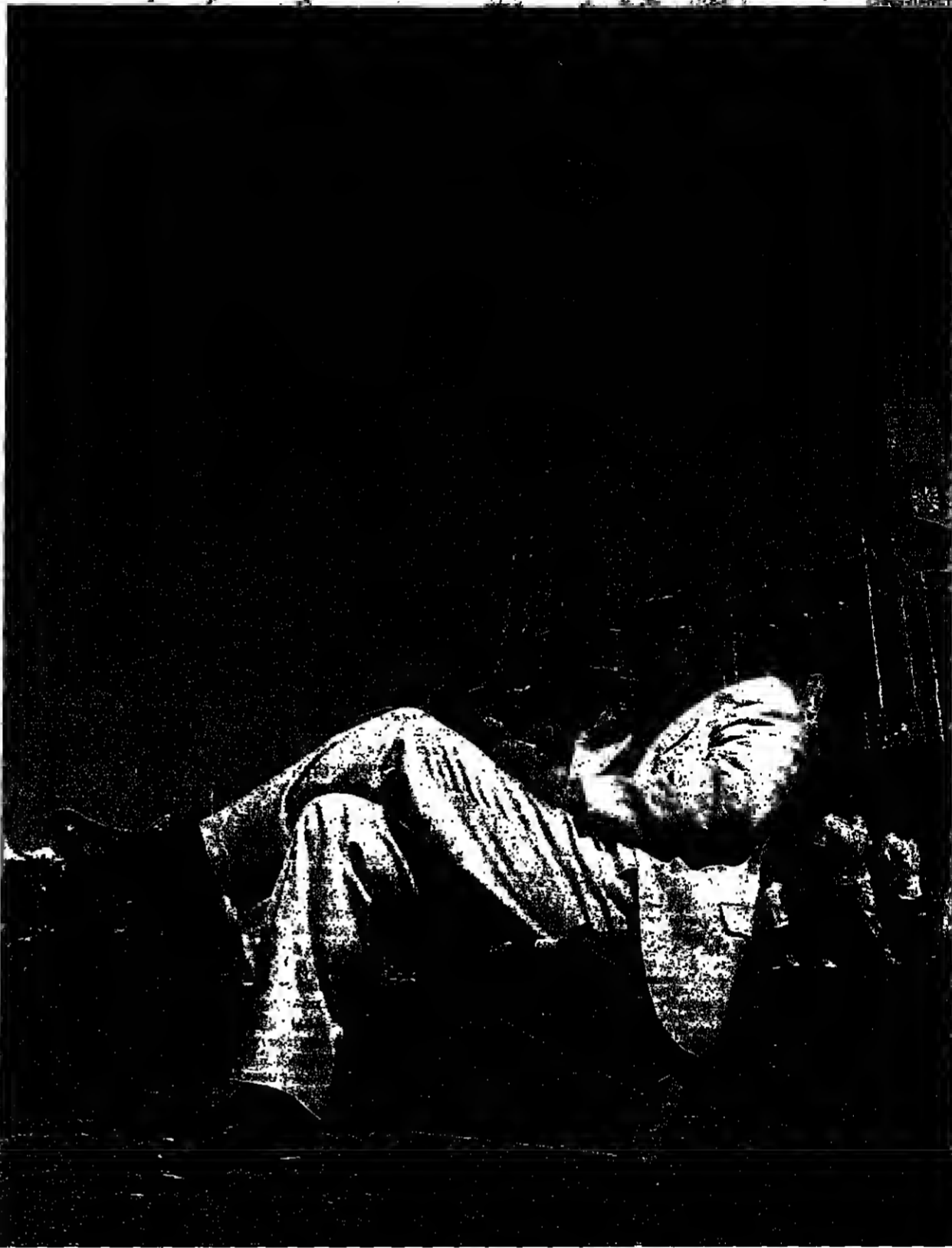
years on, with unremittingly ugly shops and restaurants beneath it, the tower highlights civic indifference. Five miles down the road, Lytham St Anne's maintains its Edwardian grace.

Caught in this clash of styles, Blackpool has become increasingly surreal. Amid all the junk, you can spot two elderly couples on the floor of the Tower Ballroom, dancing genially to an organist piping the overture to Die Fledermaus. This little scene belongs to a more innocent world, when Reginald ("The Organist Entertains") Dixon would rise with the famous Wurlitzer for the benefit of hundreds of dancers on the same floor.

Peter Chelsom, the filmmaker, grew up in the town and caught something of this surrealism in his 1995 movie *Funny Bones*. The best moment showed an impresario auditioning dozens of bizarre turns. Such goings-on would not have been out of place in the films of another seaside, Fellini.

Blackpool has never aspired to class. It always been proud of its vulgarity. The problem is, its vulgarity is no longer funny. Where a great comedian such as Ken Dodd once filled theatres, there are now only third-raters. On the streets you do not find many people smiling. Like all places where "having fun" is compulsory, the atmosphere is joyless.

Appearing on the South Pier this summer is "Chubby" Brown, and the theatre advises people to stay away if they are easily offended. It is a better joke than any Brown could tell. Nobody who is easily offended is ever going to visit Blackpool, not even to scale that huge Edwardian vinegar pot.



Wish I wasn't here: once-flourishing Blackpool is now "a simulacrum of an English life which no longer exists"

Serving a slice of the blues

THE world's hippest Certified Senior Citizen, Mose Allison, has been content to make his way as a cult artist for the best part of 40 years. His records, a unique melange of blues, disorienting piano chords and mordant satire, have never sold by the lorry-load. But discerning musicians have always sought him out.

Pete Townshend, Ray Davies and Bonnie Raitt have all declared their admiration for him. Next month, on September 23, Van Morrison will go a step further when he releases an entire album of Allison tunes, with the white-bearded composer making a guest appearance on a couple of tracks.

In the meantime Allison is settling into a residency at the newly renamed Pizza Express Jazz Club in Soho. With the new name comes a new look, the old smoky basement ex-

Mose Allison Pizza Express

panded to at least twice the size and given a tasteful facelift.

The surroundings may be glossier but Allison's performance, prefaced by another of his dissonant instrumental set-pieces, remained as uncompromising as ever.

Although there is always ample humour on display — in the sardonic twists of *I Don't Want Much* or the marital infidelities of John D. Loudermilk's *You Call It Juggin' (I Call It Runnin' Around)* — his sets are less a series of belly laughs than a dispassionate rummage around America's bars and suburbs.

Allison reminds me of a musical Raymond Carver, evoking the eccentricities of life in the slow lane through a handful of carefully sculpted phrases. His gruff, understated vocal style — closer to back-porch conversation than singing — enhances the storytelling mood.

With so much chatter emanating from the back of the room, some of the fine detail went astray: Allison's lyrics demand close attention. His two British partners — bassist Roy Babbington and percussionist Paul Clarvis — coped manfully with the idiosyncratic shuffle rhythms of the arrangements.

Clarvis had a particularly demanding role, since Allison frowns on the use of a backbeat and all the high-hat ticks that make a drummer's life easier.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CLIVE DAVIS

Unholy clash of symbols for a political martyr

In recent years the Romanian theatre has celebrated its country's liberation from the Ceausescus by putting on *Richard III*, *Macbeth* and *Jarry's satire* on power run amok, *Ubu Roi*. But an *Aeschylean tragedy* by a high-Anglican poet about the power of a 12th-century martyrdom to redeem and refresh a derelict Church? That, weirdly, is what Art-Inter Odeon has brought from Bucharest to Islington. On the face of it, *Murder in the*

Cathedral has as much resonance in Eastern Europe as *The Vicar of Dibley* would have in Tehran. But wait. T.S. Eliot wrote the piece mid-way through the Decade of the Dictators, intending it as propaganda for the spirit at a time when plenty of shrill, combative voices were crusading for fascism, communism and other materialist causes. When one of Thomas à Becket's murderers asks us to applaud him for helping to achieve "a just

THEATRE Murder in the Cathedral Almeida, NI

subordination of the pretensions of the Church to the welfare of the State", Eliot may have had in mind Hitler's interference in ecclesiastical affairs in Germany. Certainly, he said that he wanted "to bring home to the audience the

contemporary relevance of the situation".

Since I am about as fluent in Romanian as I am in Bulgarian, I cannot be wholly sure how Mihai Maniutiu and his company have responded to Eliot's injunction. But it is clear that they are less interested in the theological questions raised by martyrdom — can a man empty himself of human desire and resign himself wholly to the divine will? — than in its political implications. For them, Becket is to be revered because he resisted the pressures of the powerful and managed to maintain integrity to the end.

These Romanians do not give us all of Eliot, then, but they give us some of him; and in the refreshingly fierce, marvellously startling style we have come to expect of them. Eliot's chorus consists of "women of Canterbury" who have become dull, humdrum and spiritually lazy in the absence abroad of their archbishop. Here they are bundles of black rags and blue netting who look as if they are on the

run from a massacre. And round the neck of their crocheted, wild-eyed leader are chains, put there by a demonic figure in black who prowls the stage looking and sometimes acting rather like a gloating Jack the Ripper.

The virtual omnipresence of these two — the one seeking succour from Marcel Iures's Becket, the other luring him towards destruction — would have surprised Eliot. All the same, the play follows its usual course, though with obvious verbal cuts and visual twists. Becket's tempters mostly come in pairs, and look either like Persian dancers or

Beirut bohemians superciliously fanning themselves with their berets. Pools of blood appear on the stage. The chorus dons eastern masks and plays exotic pipes, skiffles and drums. Before jerking awake and killing Becket, the leather-clad knights fall prone to the ground and are covered in sand by the chorus.

Why? Coming without my symbolism phrase-book, I missed some of the production's ramifications. But did that matter when there were moments that made the RSC's recent revival of the play seem dreadfully bland? Above all, there was Iures, his weather-



As the Romanians do: Art-Inter Odeon's Dorin Andone, Marcel Iures, Ionel Mihailescu

Cleared for take-off into the sun

WIDELY regarded as one of BBC National Orchestra of Wales's most successful commissions, John Pickard's *The Flight of Icarus* received its first London performance at the Proms on Wednesday night, amply fulfilling its promise. It is in a single movement, and scored for a large orchestra which makes its presence felt from the opening bars. With strings and wind in whirlwind motion, and frenzied tuckets on three trumpets, the introductory section suggests, in the composer's words, the "ascent from the labyrinth" (ie. the aeronautical escape of Daedalus and his son Icarus from King Minos). This is not son Icarus from King Minos, however, and if the middle section vividly evokes the exhilaration of flight, it also projects a sense of triumph over natural laws, of the high idealism of human endeavour. Pride comes before a fall, though, and

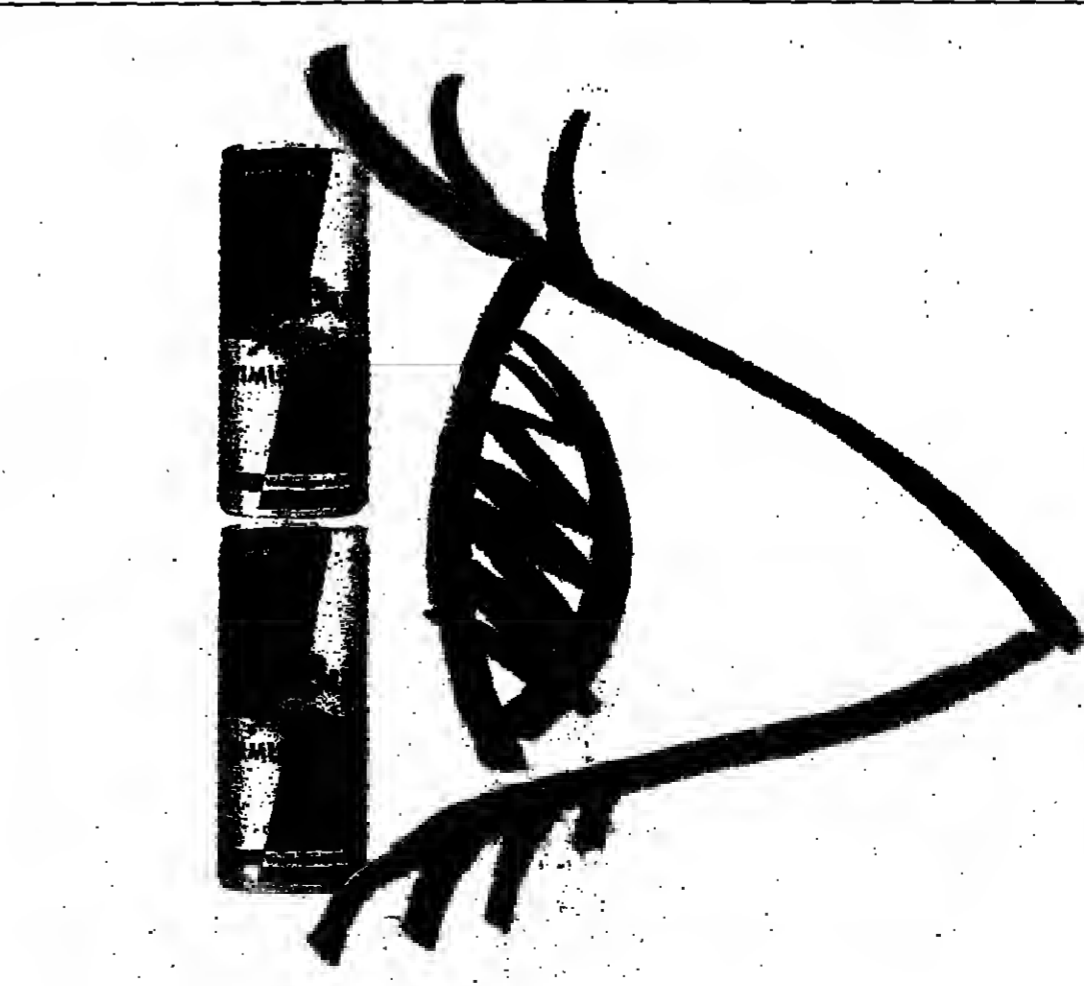
BBC BBC NOW/Wigglesworth Albert Hall/Radio 3

suddenly catastrophe looms out of a clear blue sky. Icarus falls hubristically to his death, and his father flies on into the setting sun — an image that Pickard recreates with his sonorously spaced brass and full-textured strings. Pickard's score remains airborne over its 20-minute span rather more proficiently than Icarus, leading the ear and imagination with impressive resourcefulness.

A high-risk strategy of another kind was adopted by Steven Isserlis in Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No 1. His wispy tone and minimal vibrato in the

slow movement had an appropriately eerie quality, but it played *bavoc* with conventional norms of intonation. His third-movement cadenza continued in musing mode, until the finale restored the vehemence of the opening movement. A streak of Slavic melancholy lingered in Rachmaninov's *Symphony No 2*. This was a beautifully executed performance by the orchestra, playing more confidently than ever under its new music director, Mark Wigglesworth. I admired the control of his Rachmaninov, the rise and fall of tension, the refusal to indulge in sentimentality. But I could have done with more raw passion, perhaps even a touch of vulgarity. Still, this was a commendably thoughtful, and often affecting, attempt at a far from straightforward score.

BARRY MILLINGTON



CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP



CHOICE 1 Colin Davis conducts the European Union Youth Orchestra



CHOICE 2 The Barbian launches a season in praise of Hammer Horror

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 1 Robbie Williams plays it safe with the release of his first single, the George Michael standard Freedom



POP 2 The best that drum'n'bass has to offer, courtesy of the multi-artist album collection Platinum Breakz

NEW RELEASES: David Sinclair takes that; plus the latest albums

Robbie on a free ride



Blind faith: Robbie Williams avoids some awkward questions by plumping for George Michael's Freedom

SINGLE

ROBBIE WILLIAMS Freedom (Chrysalis/EMI FREE 1) The debut single by Robbie Williams is a bit of a tease...

Beat goes on and on

METALHEADZ Platinum Breakz (Irr/London 828 783) ANYONE wondering why there is no drum'n'bass or hardcore jungle album on the Mercury Music Prize shortlist...

ALBUMS JOHN MARTYN And (Dot Discs 828 798) AFTER 25 years, John Martyn finds himself working a patch of upmarket turf...

WEEEN 12 Golden Country Greats (Flying Nun Records/RTM FN386) WEEEN, the determinedly oddball duo from Pennsylvania...

DEAN WEEN Ween has recruited a stellar line-up of old-school session musicians...

LONDON

BBC PROMS 96 This evening, at 7pm, the leading Early Music director Paul Johnson makes his Prom debut...

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mazzy

CHOICE 2

THE BARBIAN The grounds of Belvoir Hall provide the romantic setting for Opera Box's lavishly costumed production...

ELSEWHERE

ALICE IN CHAINS Yesterday's sell-out performance of Mozart's effervescent comic opera The Marriage of Figaro...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingham's assessment of theatre showing in London

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

NEW RELEASES

BLOOD SIMPLE (18) Welcome revival of the Coen brothers' debut feature...

CURRENT

RAINBOW (PG) Peris of voyaging over the rainbow, Gabriel fantasy with an ecological twist...

OPERA

THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN: Katie Mitchell's engrossing production of Euripides' lost play...

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POP 3

Even after 18 years in the business, OMD curator Andy McCluskey still gets worked up about his music



POP 4

Paul Weller is just one of the many artists heading for the great outdoors to make music this summer

THE TIMES ARTS



JAZZ

Saxophonist David Sanchez moves gracefully between two forms on his fine new release, *Street Scenes*



MONDAY

Scottish test do Oasis have what it takes to bring 40,000 punters to Balloch Country Park?

Paul Sexton finds the man from OMD in reflective mood as he awaits the release of his new album

Will you still need me when I'm 38?

Several people would catch the sharp end of Andy McCluskey's tongue if he ever got to meet them. One of them is himself as a sulky but successful youth.

As the curator of OMD, originally *Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark*, McCluskey is pondering the hit-laden history of the band which has completely filled the past 18 years of his life. And the memory of the lanky, earnest young man who started gyrating on national television in 1980 is not comfortable.

"I was such a self-righteous little git when I was 20, I could slap myself around," he says. He would tell his younger self: "Loosen up Andy, enjoy it. This is the first time you're on *Top of the Pops*, the first time you're in the *Top Ten*."

And why did he behave so seriously back then? "We were so determined to be of pop cliché and keep our feet on the ground that we were really boring," he explains. "We didn't allow ourselves to enjoy it half as much as I wish we had."

Millions of record sales later, McCluskey continues to trade under the OMD banner despite the departure in 1989 of his professional partner, Paul Humphreys. And now he is preparing for the release of an impressive new album called *Universal*.

The sound, with its trademark wistful synthesizers, is instantly recognisable as OMD. But the album also has

a remarkable vibrancy for the product of an artist in his late thirties.

"I feel as strongly about this record as I used to feel about records I made 15 years ago," says McCluskey. "I'm ready to fight for this. If anybody tells me it isn't good or my video isn't great, I'm ready to punch their lights out."

Such a pugnacious approach should not be misinterpreted. Much of McCluskey's conversation, and some of the

"We didn't let ourselves enjoy it as much as I wish we had"

lyrical content of his album, is imbued with the mood of self-assessment of a 37-year-old hadn't done it. So if people don't want to buy my records, I don't want to do it. That makes sense, doesn't it?"

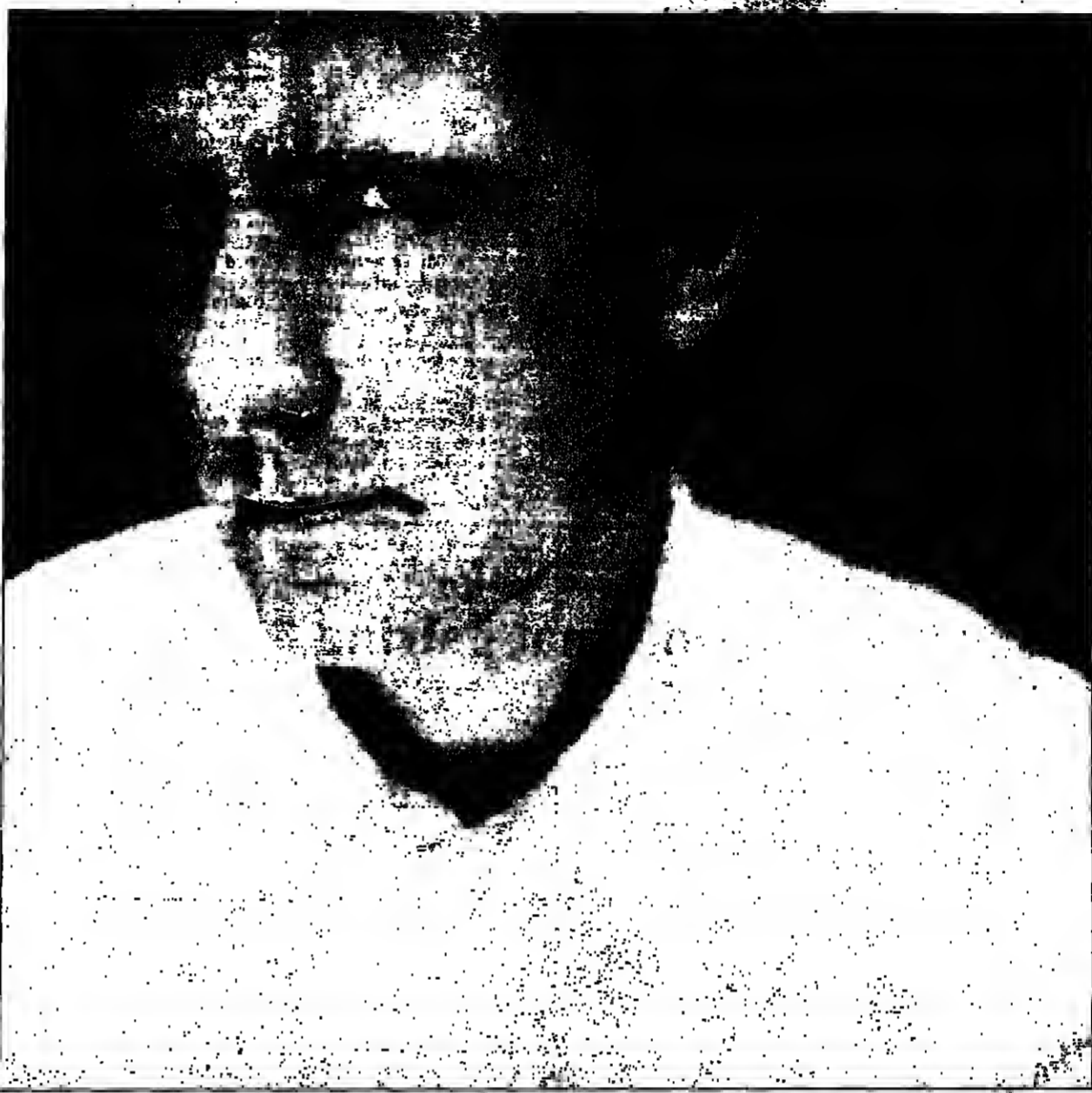
After the departure of Humphreys, a capious helping of external gratification came McCluskey's way with OMD's 1991 album *Sugar Tax*, which turned into the most successful record of his career, selling some two million copies around the world and producing the huge hits *Sailing on the Seven Seas* and *Pandora's Box*. After that, 1993's *Liberator* was a comparative underachiever.

McCluskey still lives in the Wirral, the Liverpool suburb where he was born, and gives every impression of leading a well-adjusted life free from the ego malfunctions associated with ageing rock stars. He meets you himself, makes the tea himself. But he is under no illusions about the motivation to succeed that drives him.

"All this nonsense about 'it's my art, I just do it for myself'... if that's the case, fine, play your acoustic in your bedroom for your dog or your girlfriend. Nobody releases records without having some deep, searing, dysfunctional ego problem that they need satisfying," he says. "It gets worse when you've had a hit. Then you need more because you're a sad, insecure person who needs external gratification."

"It's not the money. That's nice but it's not the main reason. It's exposing your emotional self — if people don't like that, you wish you hadn't done it. So if people don't want to buy my records, I don't want to do it. That makes sense, doesn't it?"

It is highly unlikely that he will have to suffer such an indignity with *Walking on the Milky Way*, which comes out next week as the trailer for



At 37, Andy McCluskey is still making albums and still feels a compulsive craving for public approval of his work

Liberator sold nearly half a million copies worldwide but I didn't have a hit single," says McCluskey. "Having had those since my first album, I can't abide not having hit singles."

It is as instantly endearing a pop single as you could wish for. "It's about growing up," says McCluskey. "I think everybody at some time in their life says 'oh, this is where I am. How did I get here? Where is my beautiful house...?' " He laughs at the borrowed Talking Heads lyric. "It's stocktaking of me and my life."

Pondering his own musical survival, McCluskey can spy at least one positive thing about an industry that measures out fame by the quarter hour. "The way OMD sounded in 1981 was certainly different to almost everything else in the chart," he says. "You can argue that because it was a new sound, that was what attracted people. Maybe

that was part of it. But disregarding the novelty factor, they were actually good songs — you can still listen to them. "Then it's all down to the quality of your songwriting, because you've got no new style to sell, no new face to entice people. And I firmly believe that I can still write a belting tune."

Swing shift

DAVID SANCHEZ
Street Scenes
(Columbia 485137 2)
SAXOPHONIST David Sanchez's solo work skillfully blends Latin rhythms with fierce-swinging jazz and *Street Scenes* lives up to its name by operating confidently in both genres. Thus an almost Dexter Gordon-like swagger will be succeeded by a burst of R&B-type "dirty" tenor over popping Latin percussion, and a wailing soprano ballad by a gritty alto/tenor duet with guest Kenny Garrett.

The graceful acumen which enables Sanchez and his classically exuberant pianist, Danilo Perez, to move easily between their two main influences is epitomised by a second duet with Garrett, *The Elements*, in which a perfect blend is achieved between hard-driving swing and infectious Latin pep. Sanchez's album is that rare animal: a Latin-jazz amalgam which will be equally acceptable to aficionados in each camp.

SCOTT HAMILTON
My Romance
(Concord CCD-4710)
ON THIS Concord album, the American tenor man Scott Hamilton teams up with the impishly adventurous pianist, Norman Simmons, bassist Dennis Irwin and drummer Chuck Riggs, but the album's defining sound results from the blend of the front-line instruments: Hamilton has brought in the cultured Joel Helleary on trombone to share solo duties.

The material is mainly customary Hamilton fare — standards, the odd original blues, medium-tempo lopes through familiar chord sequences — but a couple of tracks are subjected to intriguing arrangements which suggest that the smooth-toned tenor man is seeking to vary his winning formula a little.

CHRIS PARKER

When God comes to the gig

If a big outdoor show really takes off, life is never the same again

The summer is good for growing things. Fruit, trees, insects, late-night drinking beer-guts — all that nature business. But summer's Growing Speciality is audiences. Whereas in the cold and driven spring we all huddled in 2,000 capacity cocoons, numbers weakened by colds, flu, and the horrific idea of leaving the house during night-time hours when *Police! Camera! Action!* is on, the summer brings with it a surge of growth hormones so powerful that we burst from the empty shells of the Forum, the Apollo and the Civic Hall, and make our way, 50,000 strong, into the Great Outdoors for big summer music.

Paul Weller, Oasis and Pulp are all staking out acres of Merrle England this month, liberally scattering it with bars, letting lesser bands play during the sunstroke hours, and finally striding onstage when the sun has fallen far enough for those follow-spots to light the lead singer holy.

And the best of times are truly the Best Of Times — when an outdoor gig comes together, when the band are so on top of things that all the audience wants to do is get on top of each other, there is nothing to beat it.

Combined with the smell of

camp-fires, the taste of cider with moths in it, and bumping into the boy who, at school, was voted Most Likely To Succeed At Everything running a face-painting stall near the toilets, life can seem perfect. But sadly, these occasions are all too rare.

"Think of it from the bands' point of view — they have usually been touring for a solid year. Yesterday was a headline slot at a festival in Sweden. Tomorrow is a headline slot in Dublin. They have played the songs so often that

they have become conversations and we know the punch-line. However God-struck and inspired a band are when they conceive a song, they can never hope to recreate that visceral urge at every gig.

So most gigs are a live jukebox — professional renditions of hits, misses and favoured album tracks, big flashing lights and the opportunity for the audience to sing itself hoarse and burn its fingers to a crisp, on shoddy lighters during the ballads.

However, every audience



CAITLIN MORAN

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Moseley Shoals Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 3 The Smurfs Go Pop! Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 4 Recurring Dream Crowded House (Capitol)
- 5 Falling Into You Celine Dion (Epic)
- 6 (What's The Story) Morning Glory? Oasis (Creation)
- 7 The Score Fugees (Columbia)
- 8 Wildest Dreams Tina Turner (Parlophone)
- 9 18 Til I Die Bryan Adams (A&M)
- 10 Older George Michael (Virgin)

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ENIS Costello & The Attractions

OUT THIS WEEK

Costello, he's a bloody laugh in his own right. Loaded with strong moving songs, this has got to be one of the best albums of the year. The Sunday Telegraph

Costello, he's a bloody laugh in his own right. Loaded with strong moving songs, this has got to be one of the best albums of the year. The Sunday Telegraph

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Small Review - DAILY MIRROR

"...one thumping humdinger of an action adventure."

William Hall - THE PEOPLE

"Twister will blow you away. You'll feel you're right in the eye of the tornado."

Steve Whitem - THE SUN

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• Oasis's *Loch Lomond* and *Knebworth* dates are sold out. Pulp play Chelmsford on August 17 (sold out) and Victoria Park, Warrington on August 18 (tickets still available). Paul Weller plays Highland Park, Chelmsford on August 18 (tickets available)

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE



Such is her greatness that some may even come to suggest that the ping was put before pong in her honour. Deng Yaping, at 4ft 11in and 5st, is a giant of her sport, having become the first to retain both the table tennis singles title and the doubles crown, with partner Qiao Hong. Deng's impressive 3-2 victory (21-14, 21-17, 20-22, 17-21, 21-5) over Chen Jing, of Taiwan, proved again that her rivals have been less troublesome than her height. When she was nine, she won a provincial championship but was barred from the regional team because she was too short. At 15, she became national champion but was denied a place on the national team because she was too short. A year later, officials relented and Deng won the doubles world title with Qiao. Now 23, Deng, who played Qiao for the individual title in Barcelona, when there were cash awards and other incentives ensuring fair play, is unsure what her rewards will be this time beyond her fourth gold medal. CL



HOT SPOT

Tim Henman and Neil Broad are guaranteed a silver medal at worst in the men's tennis doubles tournament. They face a difficult task in the final tonight if they are to strike gold: their opponents are the Wimbledon champions, Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, from Australia. The "Woodies", as they are commonly known, are the best double act on the circuit. TV: BBC2 from 8.30pm

Few athletes at these Olympic Games have had as little time to prepare as Kamel Abdulh Bahamdan, the Saudi Arabia showjumper. Two weeks ago the 26-year-old investment banker was called to the telephone at the BV Capital Bank in Boston where he works to be told that Saudi Arabia had been invited to enter a showjumping team in Atlanta, after the late withdrawal of New Zealand. Bahamdan, who was brought up in Riyadh but has lived and competed in the United States for the last seven years, was asked to join the team — the first from Saudi Arabia to compete in an Olympic equestrian event — on the German-bred Missouri, a horse borrowed from another Saudi rider who had qualified it for Atlanta. "I said yes and then set about focusing myself," Bahamdan said. After collecting only slight faults in the individual qualifier on Monday, he said: "We're still getting to know each other, but I've nothing to lose here: not even my team is expecting anything of me." JM

Returning to the exploits of Robin Hood. We're not talking archery, but diving, and the New Zealand judge with the same name as the former denizen of Sherwood Forest. Hood got into trouble at the world championships in Rome two years ago, when his marking was considered to be out of kilter with that of his fellow sibilants on a couple of occasions. He was at it again at midnight on Wednesday during a women's springboard final, won by Fu Mingxia, of China. The first sign of trouble was in the second round, when Hood gave Jenny Keim, of the United States, a 4.5 score, 1.5 below the rest. The crowd of 14,000 boomed, but Hood was unbowed. He did the same with Melissa Mosse, also from the United States, and Fu in the next round, while marking 14-year-old Anna Linberg, of Sweden, at eight points to an average of 6.5. The moment came when a diver — Vera Ilyina, of Russia — did indeed merit just 4.5, according to the average scores given. Hood's marking? 2.5. CL

While air conditioning has been a saviour for almost everyone in the Georgian heat, the system has been causing concern to the rhythmic gymnasts in the Stageman Coliseum in Athens. During the national championships in May, the strength of the air conditioning played havoc with the gymnasts' ribbon routines. Jessica Davis, the United States champion, had to spend precious moments during her trademark Swan Lake routine untying the knots in her ribbon. The problem had still not been solved two weeks ago when two other American gymnasts came down to test the air. Happily, there have been no problems reported during the first two days of competition. Not with the air conditioning anyway. The lights are a different matter. They are too dazzling against the dark ceiling. "I have a black ball and black clubs and when I throw them up they get lost in the lights," Amina Zarpova, the 1995 world championship ribbon silver medal-winner, said. AL



Ben Anslie, who won a silver medal on Wednesday in the Laser class, is a superstitious character. Like Bjorn Borg, he does not shave during major competitions, and in addition, he always goes out for a Chinese meal at the beginning of a big regatta. He started off his Olympic campaign with a visit to Hunan's Chinese restaurant, close to the Olympic marina outside Savannah. But he went back there again on Tuesday night with his sister, Fleur, and her boyfriend, as he prepared for the showdown with Robert Scheidt, the Laser world champion from Brazil. According to Fleur, Britain's brightest young competitive sailor had barbecue spare ribs, "and something and noodles — probably beef and black bean sauce." He washed it down with three Diet Cokes and was back in bed at his parents' rented house in Savannah at 9.30pm. "We normally do the Chinese before the beginning of an event," said a nervous Fleur. "But this time we thought we should do it twice." EG

MEDAL TABLES table showing Gold, Silver, Bronze counts for various countries including USA, Russia, China, etc.

Weather: hot Humidity: 94% Temperature: 71F

Great Britain team officials left John Nuttall, their only men's 5,000 metres runner, without a bedroom and treading over three nights' lost sleep after the athletics programme began last Friday. "I feel very let down," Nuttall said. "I am still catching up on my sleep," he added, after qualifying from the first round on Wednesday, explaining that he had been forced to bed down in the communal athletes' lounge until Monday, despite requests to the team management to find him a room. "I could not go to bed until everybody else, which was about 12.30, and I was woken up in the mornings at about seven o'clock when the first guys got up. I was woken several times when people went to the toilet. I had nowhere to relax during the day, nowhere to unpack. Everybody was on my bed to watch TV. I spoke to the team administrator but he said he was sorry, nothing could be done. But, before I got a bed, other people had finished competing." DP

Reports: Craig Lord, Andrew Longman

Reports: Jenny MacArthur, Craig Lord, David Powell

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

ARCHERY: Men's and women's teams, third round and quarter-finals (14.00), semi-finals and finals (17.15).

ATHLETICS: Men: 50km walk (12.30); 4 x 100m relay, heats (14.15); javelin, qualifying (14.30 and 16.00); 4 x 400m relay, heats (15.30); pole vault, final (22.00); 4 x 100m relay, semi-finals (00.30); 4 x 400m relay, semi-finals (01.00); 3,000m steeplechase, final (02.05); Women: 4 x 100m relay, heats (15.00); shot, final (23.55);

4 x 100m relay, semi-finals (00.00); long jump, final (00.15); 4 x 400m relay, heats (01.30); 10,000m, final (02.30).

BASEBALL: Bronze medal match (19.00) and final (00.00).

BASKETBALL: Men: Play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 20.00 and 00.00). Women: Semi-finals (01.00 and 03.00).

BOXING: Semi-finals: Flyweight, featherweight, light-welterweight, light-middleweight, light-heavyweight, super-heavyweight (from 01.00).

CANOEING: Sprint semi-finals (all 500m): Men's K1 (14.00); men's C1 (14.30); women's

K1 (14.50); men's K2 (15.10); men's C2 (15.30); women's K2 (15.50).

DIVING: Men's platform, semi-finals (16.30) and final (01.00).

FOOTBALL: Third-place play-off (01.00).

GYMNASTICS: Women's individual rhythmic, preliminaries (15.00), group rhythmic finals (20.00).

HANDBALL: Men's play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 00.00 and 02.00) and semi-finals (19.30 and 21.30).

HOCKEY: Men's play-off for fifth place (13.30), bronze medal match (22.00) and final (00.30).

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING: Women's team, free routine (22.00).

TENNIS: Women's singles, bronze medal match and final; men's doubles, final (all 16.00).

VOLLEYBALL: Men's play-offs (17.00) and semi-finals (00.30).

WRESTLING: Freestyle: Under 52kg, under 62kg, under 74kg, under 90kg and under 130kg classification matches (14.30); finals (20.30).

YACHTING: Soiling medal matches (17.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympics, 10.20pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

5.35-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand, 8.30-10.20pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.25-4.30am Olympic Grandstand.

Eurosport

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Panasonic

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Handwritten signature: J.P. [unclear]

Insie's ill strategy ba by team-n

Wells makes third double-century to lift leaders



GOLF 32

Montgomerie up for count in Swedish farce

I've fit these medicine...
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THE Great Britain athletics team, facing its least successful Olympic Games for 20 years, will be looking to Roger Black to lead a salvage operation when the 4 x 400 metres relay is held over the next two days.

What greater irony could there be than for the United States, which has been barely able to see beyond itself at these Olympics, to be beaten in the last of the track events?

When Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record-holder, said in June that victory was "a formality, we should win by 30 or 40 metres," he was perhaps tempting fate.

Black, in winning the silver medal, finished comfortably clear of Alvin Harrison, the second athlete from the home nation, and Iwan Thomas was just behind him in fifth place.

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British look for golden finale

Relay squad plan surprise for Americans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

Although Britain will not name its quartet for each round until the deadline, one hour in advance, Black's comment yesterday "that there is no point in going out on the track unless you are going out to win," suggests that the team will be structured, and briefed tactically, to gamble on victory rather than play safe for silver medals.

Be in no doubt that relays are highly-regarded integral part of the sport. Black described the victory as "more fulfilling for me than anything I have achieved on my own as an athlete."

At the British Olympic trials in June, Black set a British record on a landmark occasion for British 400 metres running. "I have looked forward to this day for a long time, four guys under 45 seconds," he said.

Linford Christie's exit in the second round of the 200 metres on Wednesday marked the end of his championship career in individual events. All that is left for him now is the 4 x 100 metres relay.

Redmond and John Regis had run legs two and three. Kriss Akabusi was three metres down at the final changeover. Sparing the British men's team from returning home without gold, Akabusi came past Antonio Pettigrew, who had beaten Black to the individual title a few days earlier, two strides from line.

THE controversy over whether Carl Lewis should run the last leg of the sprint relay in order to end his Olympic career with a record ten gold medals has become a matter of national debate in the United States.

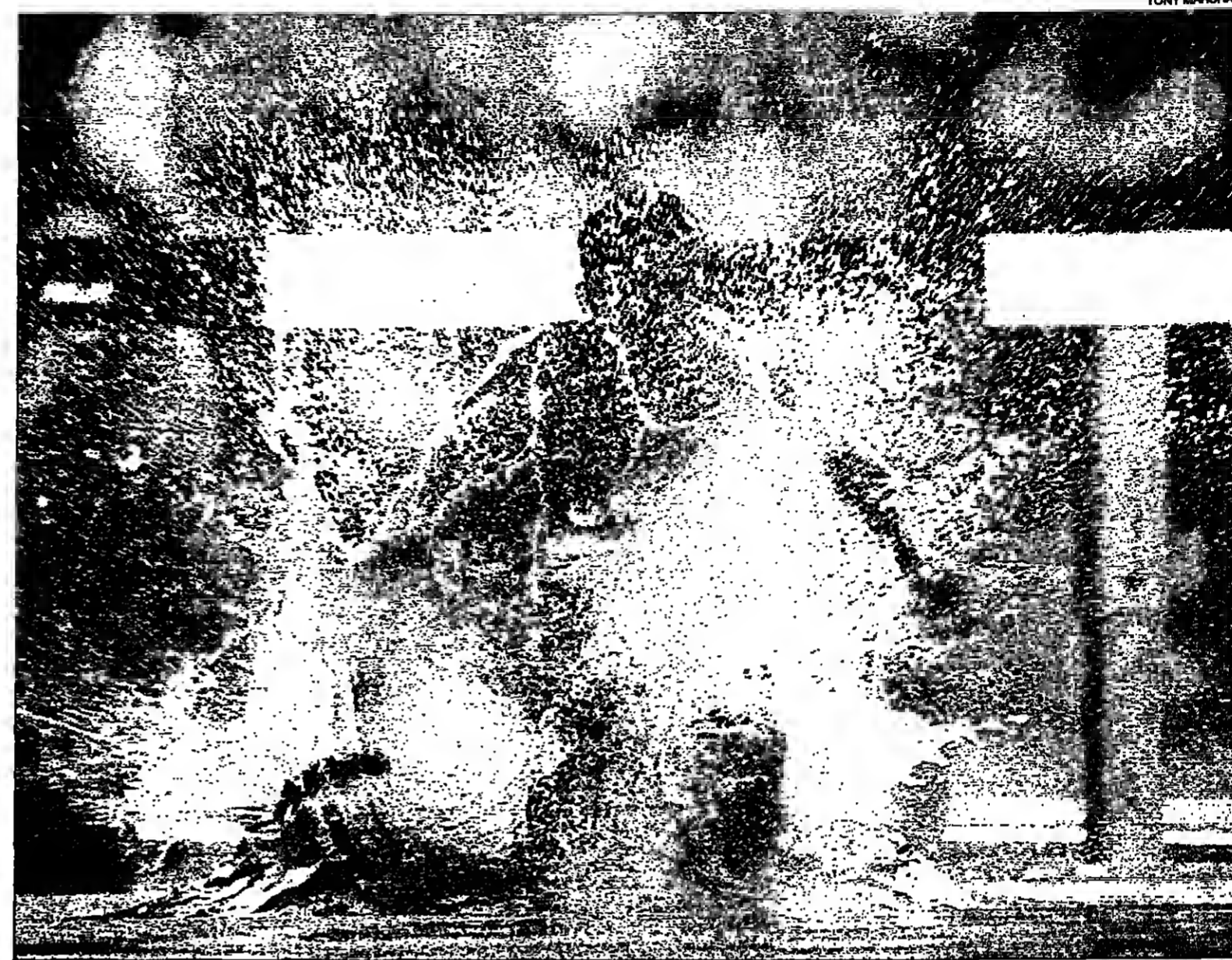
For many Americans, Lewis personifies track and field athletics. Ever since he emulated Jesse Owens by taking four titles at the 1984 Olympic Games, Lewis has symbolised the United States' supremacy in the premier Olympic sport.

Because of the popularity of these Games, which are attracting record-breaking television audiences, many athletics enthusiasts want to use the opportunity of Lewis' farewell to promote their sport as much as they can.

However, Lewis finished eighth in the 100 metres final of the US trials and therefore has no direct right to be picked for the 4 x 100m relay. Three weeks ago, he did not even turn up for a relay training camp in North Carolina.

All eight runners from the final at the trials were invited to the camp and Erv Hunt, the US coach, is understandably reluctant to include Lewis, even if the athlete has run the final leg of the Olympic winning relay in the past three Games.

For me to put a person on the team that does not want to come to practise when these other athletes are out there busting their behinds, I don't think is fair," Hunt said.



Jamal Hassan, of Qatar, makes an unwanted splash in his unavailing attempt to qualify for the final of the 3,000 metres steeplechase

Lewis's right to run divides nation

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

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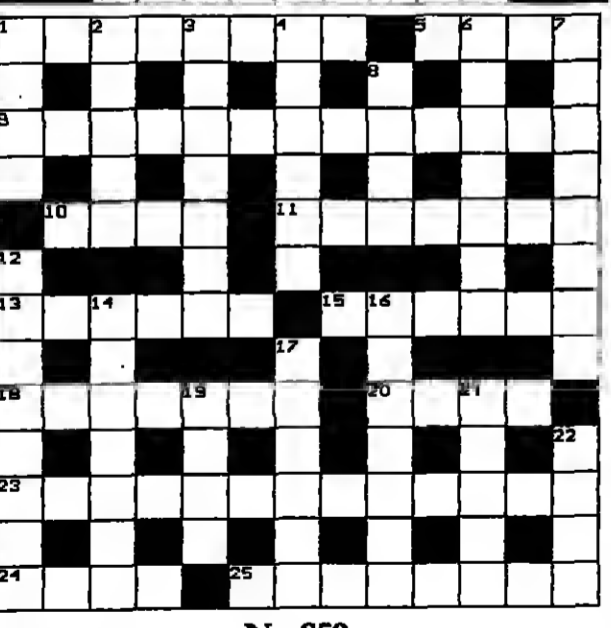
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Jon Drummond, a member of the relay team, said of Lewis: "He won the long jump. That's not the 100 metres. He got beaten but-naked in the trials."

"What is it that gives Carl the right to a tenth gold medal and deny somebody else the chance of fulfilling their dreams?"



No 850

- CROSS**
- Travel document (8)
 - Rain gently; depth of spade (4)
 - Insult, etc. requiring satisfaction (5,2,6)
 - Terrifying monster (4)
 - Hand-thrown explosive (7)
 - Rock plant (6)
 - Writing desk (6)
 - Footless heraldic bird (7)
 - Loss intensity (4)
 - Romeo and Juliet based musical (4,4,5)
 - New Haven university (4)
 - Largest Solar System moon (8)
- DOWN**
- Narrowly beats; time signal (4)
 - Arm support; throw (5)
 - Mould, example (7)
 - Place of safety (6)
 - Irreligious (7)
 - Shortened (clothes); arrived (6,2)
 - Folk wisdom (4)
 - One is safe out of it (5,3)
 - Casual reading (7)
 - Non-pedantic (7)
 - Sports grounds (6)
 - Whip (4)
 - Monotone; type of bee (5)
 - Kind, sort (4)

The solution to 849 will be published Wednesday, August 7

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Beadsworth sails close to wind but leaves his best until last

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT, IN SAVANNAH

ANDY BEADSWORTH is a cool customer and it is just as well. He came within one race of being knocked out of the Soling match-racing in his quarter-final with Stig Westergaard, of Denmark, but converted it into a 3-2 win and then returned to the dock claiming the experience had not shaken him one bit.

It may not have affected Beadsworth but it was agonising for those of his supporters who were watching including Jim Saltonstall, the Great Britain coach, who was on the edge of his spectator boat. "It was nail-biting stuff," he said.

Beadsworth and his crew of Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, found themselves in the quarter-finals on Wednesday because they lost their bye into the semi-finals after slipping to third overall on the last day of the fleet racing. Although Beadsworth is probably the most talented match-racer still in the competition, Westergaard is the next best.

Despite sailing in the Spanish team's second-string boat after his own yacht was deemed illegal by measurers at the beginning of the regatta, Westergaard - this year's match-racing champion in Solings - had shown good speed and a fighting spirit to make it into the top six.

After two races and two victories, he seemed to have it all wrapped up. On each occasion the Britons were ahead, but then lost on the downwind legs as the Danes, with a slacker rig setting, produced more speed. But Beadsworth noticed the difference and altered his settings accordingly. In race three he led from start to finish.

The fourth race was decided in the pre-start when Westergaard earned a penalty for not responding quickly enough to a luff with just one minute to go. Approaching the windward mark for the second time in the lead, he tried to force Beadsworth into a penalty of his own, but ended up stopping his boat dead in the water, allowing the Britons to sail past.

So it came down to the last race. Westergaard got away again up the beat but Beadsworth caught up on the run. About three-quarters of the way down it, Westergaard incurred another penalty for not sailing a proper course after his spinnaker touched Beadsworth's shroud. The Dane then luffed his mark-rounding allowing Beadsworth an overlap, and they were off to the finish.

"That fifth one was a big match," Beadsworth said, "but we were sailing well. I was pleased. We had had a problem downwind and maybe didn't have the rig forward enough." Yesterday, Beadsworth was sailing in the semi-finals against the German double Olympic gold medal-winner Jochen Schümann. "He's got good speed and we are going to need to get up for it," Beadsworth said, "but we're on a roll now with all our pre-race nerves out of the way." Victory will assure him of a silver medal at worst. Defeat will mean a sail-off for bronze.

The other semi-final was being contested by the Russian crew led by Georgi Shayduko and the American boat helmed by Jeff Madrigali. Shayduko had earlier disposed of the Canadians, Bill and Joanne Abbott and Brad Boston, 3-0.

Meanwhile, Britain's John Merricks and Ian Walker were facing their seventh and last race in the 470s, knowing that they could afford to make no mistakes to hold on to the silver-medal position. They have had a difficult and inconsistent regatta by their own standards and have done well to claw their way into contention after some uneven results.

The gold is already secure in the hands of the Ukrainian pairing of Yevhen Braslavets and Ihor Maruyevko but, luckily for Merricks and Walker, many of the other leading crews have had their off-days, too.

However three crews - the Russians, Portuguese and Americans - were capable of stealing silver from them and six could take the bronze. To get either, Merricks and Walker could not afford a disaster which could plunge them out of medal contention.



Beadsworth, left, Parkin and Stead are in the medal hunt



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